



Kon Vatskalis

MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Rob Knight

MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

6 May 2008

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MORE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN BUDGET 2008

Budget 2008 will deliver for families living in regional and remote parts of the Northern Territory.

Minister for Regional Development, Kon Vatskalis, said economic development and maximising opportunities in regional parts of the Territory is a key priority for Government.

“Budget 2008 is delivering record health, education and infrastructure spends with more money going into the regions,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“The Henderson Government is committed to making the Territory the best place to live, work and raise a family no matter where they live.

“We are focused on building business and employment opportunities in the regions.”

BUILDING BUSINESS IN THE BUSH

Budget 2008 is building business in the bush with initiatives such as:

- \$5.5 million to promote mining investment and mineral exploration.
- \$4.4 million to facilitate major economic development projects.
- \$1 million for the Remote Workforce Development Strategy to support remote NT Public Sector employees.
- \$740,000 to increase participation of Indigenous people in the pastoral industry.
- \$530,000 for Indigenous Economic Development strategy.
- \$520,000 for business workshops, seminars, round tables and events to support small to medium enterprises.
- \$440,000 for regional based economic development officers.
- \$300,000 for the Regional Economic Development fund.



RESEARCH FOR THE REGIONS

“We are investing more into research in our regions to help deliver more high quality products from the Territory into domestic and international markets,” Mr Vatskalis said.

Some initiatives in Budget 2008 include:

- \$1.8 million for veterinary laboratory services providing animal health testing to livestock industries.
- \$1 million for native and improved pasture research.
- \$790,000 to increase Territory pastoral industry knowledge.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DELIVERING MORE SERVICES TO THE REGIONS

“The shires will be in operation in July and Budget 2008 will deliver additional resources to the new bodies to help improve services to people living in regional areas,” said Local Government Minister Rob Knight.

“Budget 2008 will deliver an additional \$5 million to cover one-off costs that come with starting a new organisation.

“The Northern Territory Government will provide \$27 million to the new shires to assist them with their establishment and running costs for the first year.

“The new shires are designed to increase the level of local government services to people in the bush and help drive increased economic development.

“The Henderson Government is delivering for Territory families living in the regions by building business and employment opportunities and increasing their levels of services,” said Mr Knight.

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