Gearing up for growth through infrastructure investment

The Territory Government is gearing up for growth and Budget 2012 features a huge $1.3 billion infrastructure investment across the emergency services, education, health, roads, corrections and housing sectors.

Treasurer Delia Lawrie said the Henderson Government is continuing to maintain high levels of investment in public infrastructure to support 2600 local jobs, however this spend was now moderating as major projects began to drive the Territory economy.

“The Territory is entering a period of sustained economic growth, with our economy tipped to be the second fastest growing in Australia over the next five years,” Ms Lawrie said.

“After record public infrastructure spends over the last three Budgets, major projects secured by the Henderson Government are ramping up and set to have huge multiplier effects through the Territory economy, allowing our Government to slowly step down our infrastructure spend."
“Territory workers, businesses and families are set to reap the benefit of massive private sector investment, and the time is right to begin winding back public spending so as not to compete with the private sector.”

Minister for Construction, Gerry McCarthy, said the Territory had a bright future with projects coming online that the Territory had never seen before.

“The Territory Government’s $4.6b investment in key infrastructure over the last three years has kept Territorians working, our businesses open and skilled our workforce for the huge opportunities that now lie around the corner.

“We built it; and they came. The Territory is now positioned to reap the rewards.

Minister for Essential Services, Rob Knight, said this was an exciting time to be in the Territory with Budget 2012 investing in the power and water infrastructure for a growing, dynamic Territory.

“In Budget 2012 the Territory Government is rolling out more than $294 million to upgrade and deliver new power, water and sewerage infrastructure, as part of a five year, $1.8b capital and maintenance program,” Mr Knight said.

“The investment will further improve reliability and give us room to grow, while giving Territorians some of the cleanest, greenest most efficient power generation in Australia.”

This Budget 2012, the Henderson Government is:

**Investing in infrastructure**

Budget 2012 delivers a $1.3 billion infrastructure spend, including:

- $607 million for the capital works program
- $380 million for Power and Water Corporation’s infrastructure program
- $217 million for the repairs and maintenance program
- $73 million for capital and repairs and maintenance grants

**Investing in better hospitals**

Budget 2012 invests $111 million to continue upgrading Territory hospitals including:

- $22 million to continue upgrades to increase the number of beds in the emergency department and short stay unit and provide two additional operating theatres at Royal Darwin Hospital;
- $18 million for continuing upgrades and remediation works at Alice Springs and the redevelopment of the Tennant Creek Hospital emergency department; and
$10.3 million to commence construction of the $110 million Palmerston Hospital and $7.7 million for short-term patient accommodation at Katherine Hospital.

Investing in our schools

Budget 2012 provides $17 million to build better schools including:

- $4.75 million to continue works on a new special education centre at Taminmin College and establish a special education facility at Palmerston Senior College;
- $2 million to continue works to expand facilities at Henbury School and $1.1 million to replace the Walungurru School administration block; and
- $1.8 million for a new double classroom early learning centre at Kintore Street School and $1.6 million for a new classroom block of four learning spaces and ablutions at Kalkarindji School.

Record investment in power, water and sewerage upgrades

Budget 2012 includes $294 million as part of a record essential services investment of $1.3 billion over five years. Maintenance is also boosted to $452 million over five years, including $87 million in 2012-13:

Budget 2012 also delivers $38 million in capital and repairs and maintenance for the Indigenous Essential Services program, which services 73 remote communities. This includes, $7 million to upgrade the supply of water to Lajamanu, Maningrida and Ntaria.

Investing in roads

Budget 2012 delivers a $260 million infrastructure program for Territory roads including:

- $27 million for strengthening and widening, flood immunity and road safety improvements and $3 million for overtaking lanes between Darwin and Katherine as part of the national network roads program;
• $10 million to continue upgrading the Central Arnhem Road, including the provision of passing lanes and $4 million for strengthening and widening targeted sections of the Arnhem Highway; and
• $8.5 million for the duplication of Howard Springs Road from the Stuart Highway to Whitewood Road and associated upgrades including Gunn Point Road.

Investing in housing

Budget 2012 delivers more housing for Territorians with a $340 million infrastructure program including:

• $47.6 million for residential development works to deliver affordable housing under the National Rental Affordability Scheme;
• $60 million for urban public housing and $44.4 million for government employee housing; and
• $188 million for remote Indigenous housing and related infrastructure, under the joint Commonwealth and Territory governments' Remote Indigenous Housing Program, including essential services infrastructure.

More urban public housing

Budget 2012 provides $60 million for urban public housing including:

• $22.8 million to repair and refurbish existing public housing dwellings;
• $10.6 million under the National Partnership on Homelessness to house families at risk of homelessness; and
• $5.4 million in public housing complexes across the Territory and $3.9 million to continue the provision of one and two bedroom units in Darwin’s northern suburbs.

Better remote housing

• $188 million for remote Indigenous housing and related infrastructure, under the joint Commonwealth and Territory governments' Remote Indigenous Housing Program, including essential services infrastructure;
$0.3 million to survey new and existing residential developments and infrastructure in Territory Growth Towns as part of a $3.6 million three-year initiative; and
$44.4 million for government employee housing for more nurses, teachers and police in our remote towns.

Continuing land release

Budget 2012 continues the Territory Government’s commitment to release land to support our growing population with:

- $15.9 million to continue headworks for the new suburbs of Johnston and Zucconi in Palmerston East;
- $3.5 million to continue the $13.5 million development of the new Alice Springs suburb of Kilgariff; and
- $15.5m for a Trunk water main to supply Middle Arm industrial precinct and the new city of Weddell.

Supporting Territory business

Budget 2012 supports Territory business and jobs with continuing works of $64.9 million to develop industrial land:

- $14.4 million to develop industrial land in East Arm; and
- $3.2 million to continue hardstand and surfacing works to allow for the expansion of the Common User Area at East Arm.

Better Police, Fire and Emergency Services facilities

Budget 2012 delivers $36 million for police, fire and emergency services facilities with:

- $1.8 million for new police overnight facilities at Mt Liebig, Areyonga and Robinson River;
- $1.5 million for the Numbulwar Police Post; and
- $13.3 million is provided to continue works on the Gapuwiyak and Ramingining police stations as part of Working Future.
Investing in Communities – Supporting a Working Future

Budget 2012 delivers new and upgraded community infrastructure to continue improving Territory Growth Towns infrastructure and services to a similar level to regional centres elsewhere in Australia including:

- $11.7 million for Trade Training Centre facilities for VET programs in Alyangula, Angurugu, Gunbalanya and Ngukurr;
- $4 million to upgrade the barge landings at Gapuwiyak and Wurrumiyanga (Nguiu); and
- $2.7 million to upgrade existing and construct new cyclone shelters.

Supporting the Territory lifestyle

Budget 2012 delivers:

- $1.8 million to complete the Wangi Visitor Centre at Litchfield National Park;
- $1.4 million to construct a campground at Tomato Island; and
- $1 million to commence site works for the new 25 metre, eight-lane swimming pool in the rural area, with a further $11.5 million for the following year.

Media contacts:  Patrick Hastwell (Lawrie) 0427 017 803
Kelly Parkes (McCarthy) 0419 409 958
Mark Wilton (Knight) 0405 990 666

Related files:
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