OTHER NEWS

Alice Springs Netball

I was delighted to donate a new BBQ to the Alice Springs Netball Association in my local electorate of Greatorex. As a Patron for Netball since 2007, I’m pleased the new BBQ can be used by local clubs in their fundraising efforts on a weekly basis. Many more fundraising BBQ’s to come!

Territory Eels

It was great to see the Alice Springs boys in the Territory Eels Academy showing off their new training uniforms donated by the Parramatta Eels as part of the club’s partnership with the NT Government. The Eels donated 100 kits across the NT and they look great.

Qantas gesture welcomed

We are deeply disappointed by Tigerair’s announcement that they would be removing all services into Alice Springs after July 22; it is pleasing that our strong relationship with Qantas continues.

In a fantastic gesture by Qantas, they will be providing special sale fares post July 22, this will ensure visitors can continue with plans to visit the Red Centre, as well as enabling Centralians to travel interstate and visit family and friends. This will help soften the blow of Tigerair’s withdrawal from these routes and it also demonstrates the goodwill with the NT Government and Qantas and the landmark $7 million cooperative agreement to promote the NT within Australia and internationally.

A special thanks to Qantas for their efforts to maintain their contract with the NT Government. The Eels donated 100 kits across the NT and they look great.

The Residency

I was proud to officially open The Residency heritage-listed building in Alice Springs following extensive renovations worth $50,000 by the Territory Government.

The Residency is a part of our rich history and it is important we take steps to ensure our heritage is preserved for future generations. The house now looks fantastic, and is a proper museum and another attraction in our great town for tourists and locals to enjoy.

Connect NT

I was pleased to launch ‘Connect NT’ making going to the library a lot easier for Territorians with a new one-stop library card. The new Connect NT scheme will mean one card can be used at 11 libraries. Previously all councils and individual libraries had their own cards, meaning library-goers would have to sign multiple memberships to use different libraries. Under the new scheme, current library card holders don’t have to change anything; their card will automatically become active on the Connect NT universal system.

Budget 2014

As your local member for Greatorex I’m proud to be a part of a Government that is securing our children’s future by making the decisions necessary today, to ensure we don’t stifle the opportunities of tomorrow. We must act now to secure a bright economic future for all of our Territory kids.

We will secure our children’s future with this Budget through better school facilities. It will ensure our children are equipped with the knowledge, skills and confidence to take on the challenges and opportunities of living in the best part of Australia.

The NT Government’s 2014 Budget will ensure our young people have greater recreational, cultural and artistic opportunities, including more support for childcare and the highly successful Sports Voucher program.

The Budget focuses on the challenges of today - reducing the cost of living, delivering more affordable housing and continuing economic growth.

Budget 2014 will accelerate the release of land that will be on a scale that will be nothing like the Territory has seen before to help families stay in the Territory and here in Central Australia.

This government doesn’t want the energy of future generations to be drained by paying back debt. Territorians can be assured that part of our economic plan is paying off a projected $5.5 billion of debt.

We will secure our children’s future in Greatorex by delivering real action on the challenges of today.

Economic Development

Budget 2014 will help build a bigger and better Northern Australia, with $9 million to expand police facilities in Alice Springs.

We’re building a stronger economy in Central Australia, creating more jobs and helping families feel safer.

After lobbying hard to secure Central Australia in the Federal Government’s Northern Australia development agenda, Budget 2014 will ensure the Centre is open for business.

It will see more investment in key services like health, education and lifestyle as we continue to work to improve access to efficient and quality services for all Territorians.

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Budget 2014 will save a family with three children up to $2145 a year through increased childcare subsidies, a boost to sports vouchers and the Back to School payment.

The Budget provides a total of $5.9 million for enhanced child care subsidies, including an additional $1.7 million to expand the scheme to include family day care and an increase in the subsidy of 10 per cent.

Expanding the scheme to include Family Day Care means an additional 1,000 Territory children will be eligible for the scheme.

The subsidy contributes about $1445 per year towards the cost of day care for a child under two.

In addition, the $6.6 million Back to School payment will continue to provide $150 payments per student across all Territory schools to help parents with expenses such as school uniforms and textbooks.

The Government will also continue its marketing activity in partnership with tourism retailers, airlines and other partners, highlighting the Territory’s tourism offer to the development of Northern Australia and growing tourism

The subsidy effectively provides an average of $176 per quarterly power bill or $705 annually.

Budget 2014 provides $83.9 million for education facilities and includes $17.8 million as part of the $126 million commitment over four years for new education-related infrastructure priorities, including:

- $4 million program of works, targeted for schools in Central Australia
- $450,000 to install and upgrade basketball and netball courts at Centralian Senior College
- $300,000 for disabled and special needs access modifications in schools across the Territory
- $1.2 million to install and upgrade playground equipment and outdoor learning areas in schools across the Territory

### More affordable housing

Budget 2014 will deliver on the Government’s plan to increase the supply of housing across the Territory to keep up with our growing population.

The Giles Government is increasing the supply of affordable housing for all Territorians.

Increasing the supply of housing will ease the cost of living for families and key workers in retail, trades and hospitality, who are vital to our plans to develop Northern Australia and grow our economy.

Budget 2014 also provides $4 million to continue the redevelopment of public housing unit complexes into more suitable affordable housing.

A range of home loan products and services will also continue in Budget 2014 to increase the supply of new housing, and provide home ownership opportunities for Territorians.

First home owners will benefit with the First Home Owners Grant amended to provide more targeted assistance with the following changes taking effect from 13 May:

- increasing the grant from $25,000 to $26,000 for first home buyers purchasing or building a new home and
- removing the $6000 value cap, meaning buyers can consider a wider range of properties.

Budget 2014 also includes a new initiative that will see $4.5 million in funding over 3 years commencing in 2014-15 to develop a new Remote Indigenous Home Purchase Strategy to give remote Territorians the same opportunities as everyone else.

The Giles Government is making a real difference for people in the Centre by making our communities better places to live, work, invest and play with Budget 2014.

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### Tourism boost

Our economy and local business will also benefit from an $8 million boost in the 2014 Tourism Budget.

A total of $44.7 million has been allocated for Tourism NT in 2014-15, which includes a new one-off $500,000 Tourism Infrastructure and Development grant program.

The 2014 Budget is a significant step forward as we continue our absolute commitment to growing tourism across the Territory.

An extra $8 million in the 2014 Budget will ensure the new plans, policies and initiatives we have recently put in place pay off.

Some initiatives that will be made possible are:

- $13.6 million for domestic marketing activity in partnership with tourism retailers, airlines and other partners, highlighting experiences across the Territory
- $17.5 million for marketing the Territory internationally as a holiday destination to contribute to the development of Northern Australia
- $2.5 million for marketing and promoting the Territory as a business events destination
- $1.9 million to provide regional marketing and visitor information services across the Territory
- $500,000 for a new tourism infrastructure and product development grant program focused on regional and remote areas
- $150,000 to develop an internship program in partnership with industry employers with the aim of providing ongoing employment and career path within the tourism industry
- $250,000 to promote events and festivals held across the Territory

### An even better lifestyle

Families will also be able to enjoy the great culture and lifestyle of Central Australia with access to more top quality sporting and entertainment events with Budget 2014 delivering:

- $1.27 million to stage the Alice Springs Masters Games and support the delivery of the Imparja Cup
- $1 million to Parramatta Eels to hold an NRL premiership game in Darwin and pre-season game in Alice Springs
- $1 million to bring Australian Football League matches to the Territory
- $150,000 to support A-League side Adelaide United hosting pre-season games in Alice Springs
- $58,000 for the Tattersall’s Finke Desert Race
- $370,000 to support the public libraries in Central Australia
- $200,000 for ongoing support to Olive Pink Botanic Gardens
- $10.3 million will also be allocated to continue and expand the Territory and Commonwealth Governments’ Alice Springs Transformation Plan with an aim to improve life outcomes for Indigenous people.

### New $200 Sport Vouchers

The cost of covering your child’s sport, recreation and cultural activities will also be helped by the 2014 Budget with a $5 million boost and expansion of the Government’s successful Sports Voucher scheme.

As well as increasing the annual voucher from $75 to $200 per child per year, Budget 2014 expands the range of activities that the voucher can be used for.

Recreational activities like girl guides and scouts, dance, music lessons and other arts and cultural pursuits will all be included so children who don’t play traditional sports don’t miss out.

The expanded scheme also allows vouchers to be used for learn to swim lessons for toddlers aged 0-5 years not enrolled in school who have completed the Government’s Under 5 Water Safety Awareness Program.

Our new Learn to Swim Vouchers will ensure all Territory kids have the opportunity to learn this vital life skill no matter what their age.

The Giles Government is serious about driving down the cost of living and our new $200 Sport Voucher Scheme will make our great lifestyle more affordable for families.

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### Helping the family budget by $2145

The new Sport Vouchers will be a hit with families.