



Paul Henderson
CHIEF MINISTER
Dr Chris Burns
MINISTER FOR JUSTICE

6 May 2008

STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 11AM TUESDAY 6 MAY 2008

BUDGET 2008 DELIVERS SAFER STREETS AND TACKLES CRIME

More than \$6 million will be in Budget 2008 to construct the new police station at Casuarina in Darwin's northern suburbs.

Chief Minister and Police Minister, Paul Henderson, and Justice Minister, Chris Burns, said Budget 2008 delivers more resources to make our streets safer.

"Design work on the new Casuarina police station is now complete and site preparation for civil works such as underground services is underway," Mr Henderson said.

"The purpose built station will include pre-wired interview rooms and facilities for specialised teams such as the Domestic Violence Unit, and will replace the current station which is more than 30 years old."

SAFER STREETS, MORE POLICE, MORE RESOURCES

Mr Henderson said the NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services will receive a record \$247 million in funding - an 81% increase since 2001.

"Central to this is the recruitment of an extra 35 police officers for our suburbs and streets - the first of 60 officers to be recruited under my Government's two-year Safer Streets program," he said.

"The \$9.3 million Safer Streets plan delivers more patrols in Darwin City, Casuarina, Palmerston, Alice Springs and extra resources in Katherine to target key issues of anti-social behaviour and youth crime."

An extra 10 auxiliaries will also be recruited under the Safer Streets plan for the Communications Centres.

The three-year, \$13 million upgrade of the police communications network will also commence this year, with \$5.1 million delivered in Budget 2008.

"My Government is focused on building a safer community and Budget 2008 gives police the extra resources they need to do their job."



TACKLING CRIME IN THE BUSH

"Breaking the cycle of crime in the bush is an important part of building safer and healthier communities, and we will continue to work with the Federal Government to close the gap of Indigenous disadvantage," said Mr Henderson.

Budget 2008 includes:

- \$4.3 million to deliver 24 additional police resources for the Child Abuse Taskforce.
- \$2.3 million for increased policing in remote communities.
- \$420,000 to establish 10 community courts.
- \$980,000 for an additional 10 community corrections officers and 2 court clinicians.

MORE RESOURCES TO DEAL WITH CRIMINALS

Attorney General and Justice Minister Dr Chris Burns said the Henderson Government made no apologies for its hard line on crime.

"Budget 2008 delivers more resources and facilities to implement tough new laws and facilities to deal with criminals," Dr Burns said.

EXPANDING OUR PRISONS

"The Alice Springs and Darwin Correctional Centres are full, but we will not shy away from dealing with offenders to break the cycle of crime," he said.

"Work is underway to choose a greenfield site in Darwin for a new 1000-inmate jail with more than double the capacity of the current Berrimah prison.

"As an immediate measure, \$23.6 million over two years has been allocated in Budget 2008 to expand the Darwin and Alice Springs Correctional Centres to hold an extra 240 prisoners.

The site for the new Darwin jail is expected to be chosen by the end of the year.

CRACKING DOWN ON YOUTH CRIME

"Youth crime is unacceptable and Budget 2008 supports the Government's comprehensive package of measures to crack down on young offenders," said Dr Burns.

"We've closed the revolving door on juvenile diversion - repeat offenders will face their day in court.

"\$2.05 million will support Family Responsibility Agreements and Orders to hold parents accountable for their children's behaviour.

\$450,000 in Budget 2008 will be used for new youth camps to get wayward kids back on track.

"The Northern Territory Government is investing in community safety to keep the Territory the best place to live, work and raise a family."

Media Contact: (Henderson) Rebecca Cass 801 4067 or 0401 110 38
(Burns) Andrea Adlam 8901 4078 or 0401 119 467