

BUDGET 2019-20

Investing in the bush

Budget 2019 continues the government's strong commitment to the bush by empowering communities, creating jobs, delivering new infrastructure projects and building strong families.

Remote Housing Investment Package

A good home provides firm foundations for positive health, education and employment, and helps build a strong sense of community. The government is continuing to deliver the 10-year \$1.1 billion Remote Housing Investment Package and secured a five-year \$550 million co-contribution from the Commonwealth. Budget 2019 includes:

- \$115.8 million to build new fit-for-purpose homes
- \$43.9 million to construct living spaces to ease the overcrowding in existing homes
- \$24.6 million for additional government employee housing.

The Territory Government is also providing \$61.8 million to support the rollout of new housing by preparing land and setting up electrical, water and sewerage infrastructure.

Treaty and local decision-making

Budget 2019 supports Aboriginal communities to work together with government to develop policies and practices for service delivery tailored to a community's aspirations and need. Budget 2019 provides:

- \$1.4 million to establish an independent Treaty Commission Office, to lead a Treaty engagement process in the Territory and develop a Treaty negotiation framework
- \$3 million to continue to grow Regional Development, progress the 10-year plan to drive the Local Decision Making agenda and support Aboriginal organisations to participate in opportunities to share in the delivery of government services.

Road upgrades

Government is delivering for the bush with improvements to rural and remote roads. Budget 2019 includes:

- \$60.2 million to improve various sections of the Plenty Highway and Tjukururu Road
- \$29 million for the Buntine Highway to continue selected strengthening and widening works and extending the seal towards the Western Australia border
- \$24.2 million to continue upgrades to Tablelands Highway and Barkly Stock Route under the Beef Roads Program
- \$16.2 million to upgrade and seal priority sections of the Central Arnhem Road.

Improving telecommunications in the bush

Budget 2019 continues to improve remote telecommunications with \$5.45 million in 2019-20 for the remote communications connectivity and capacity program to ensure more remote residents, businesses and visitors have reliable access to modern communications.

The Territory will invest \$12 million over the next three years as part of an ongoing partnership with Telstra to improve mobile phone and broadband telecommunications infrastructure through the Remote Telecommunications Co-investment Program.

Essential services

Budget 2019 continues to invest in improving essential services in the bush, including:

- \$77.7 million for the Indigenous Essential Services program, providing electricity, water and sewerage in 72 remote Aboriginal communities
- \$21.6 million for municipal and essential services in homelands and outstations
- \$9.8 million to upgrade major essential services infrastructure in remote communities.

Projects to be progressed in 2019 include:

- \$5.8 million for the Angurugu sewer upgrade stage 2
- \$4.7 million for water services and infrastructure upgrades in Galiwin'ku
- \$4.3 million for water service upgrades in Lake Evella.

Remote Passenger Transport Program

Government is developing a strategy to expand the Remote Passenger Transport Program.

The new remote passenger transport strategy will be supported by \$3 million per annum to provide greater flexibility, affordability and frequency of services to Territorians who live remotely.

Town camps five-year reform

The government's *Town Camp Reform Framework 2019-2024* presents our vision for strong, culturally rich and empowered town camps by ensuring:

- residents and their community are independent, safe and thriving
- housing choices and support services are people-centred, flexible and suitable to town camps
- the Aboriginal community housing sector is strengthened and developed through capacity building, regulation and transfer of housing and asset management
- land tenure and leasing arrangements are fit for community purpose
- local jobs are created and the local economy is supported.

The framework is supported by a five-year investment program tailored for each of the Territory's town camps.

The future of Jabiru

The Commonwealth and Territory governments have committed to repositioning Jabiru to a tourism and regional services hub.

Budget 2019 includes the Territory Government's \$131.5 million commitment over four years towards the Jabiru Futures Package to deliver a long-term plan for the future viability of Jabiru. The Commonwealth has also committed \$216 million over 10 years. The funding will transform Kakadu National Park and Jabiru township through:

- a Bininj Resource and Development Centre to support Aboriginal learning
- essential services infrastructure, such as electricity, water and sewerage
- a new government services centre
- improved education and health facilities
- a World Heritage Interpretative Centre to showcase the park's national and cultural values
- upgrades to roads in Kakadu to improve access.

Barkly Regional Deal

The Commonwealth, Territory governments and Barkly Regional Council have partnered to commence the \$78.4 million Barkly Regional Deal (the Deal). The Deal maximises the value of new and existing public investment through greater collaboration, alignment and coordination of regional investment priorities between the three levels of government.

The Deal has been developed in collaboration with the local community to meet their aspirations and recognise the Aboriginal peoples of the region as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land. The Barkly community will directly benefit from the delivery of 28 initiatives, including \$38 million for economic development, \$31.8 million for social development and \$8.7 million cultural and place-making.