

# BUDGET 2019-20

## Creating local jobs

The Territory Government is focused on creating jobs and growing the economy. Budget 2019 drives economic growth by encouraging private investment, delivering vital infrastructure, supporting industry and stimulating tourism.

### Turbocharging tourism

Budget 2019 introduces Turbo2, an extension of government's \$103 million Turbocharging Tourism initiative, which attracted 57 000 extra tourists. Turbo2 provides \$62.8 million over two years, including:

- \$27.7 million for targeted national and international marketing activities to increase holiday visitors, including attracting lucrative business events and cooperative marketing with airlines
- \$20 million to support Territory festivals and events, including:
  - \$12 million for community events such as Darwin Festival
  - \$8 million to continue positioning the Territory as a destination through major events such as Parrtjima – A Festival in Light, Bass in the Grass, the V8 Supercars, and National Rugby League and Australian Football League games
- \$15.1 million to enhance visitor experiences, including:
  - \$12.1 million for the Territory's parks and reserves and to support arts and cultural offerings
  - \$3 million to unlock private sector investment in tourism through the Visitor Experience Enhancement Program.

### Facilitating private investment

Government will increase private sector investment to accelerate economic growth, strengthen the diversification of the Territory's economy and create more jobs for Territorians.

Budget 2019 provides:

- \$89 million for a Local Jobs Fund to accelerate major and significant projects in the Territory. The fund is aimed at supporting economic transformation projects that will help grow local businesses to increase exports of goods and services interstate and internationally
- funding to establish an Office of Investment Attraction to consolidate major projects, microeconomic reform and investment attraction functions across government, providing a coordinated approach to attracting private investment in the Territory
- \$1.6 million over two years to introduce a new Significant Project Champions team to facilitate investment opportunities in key industry sectors. The team will assist private sector proponents by reducing the challenges of red, beige and green tape, providing better coordination and strengthening partnerships with industry
- continued support for market-led proposals to secure new major projects to boost the Territory economy.

### Skills and training

Budget 2019 supports the vocational education and training sector with \$8.4 million over two years towards the development of a Future Skills Program to upskill employees. The Future Skills Program will comprise two sub-programs:

- Future Skills Vouchers of up to \$3000 for up to 700 Territorians to obtain micro-credentials and skills relevant to the needs of the changing workforce
- Future Proofing Training Infrastructure Fund to provide grants to allow registered training organisations and industry organisations to improve infrastructure that supports the delivery of training programs.

### Infrastructure

Investing in infrastructure is vital to stimulating economic activity and creating employment opportunities.

Budget 2019 provides \$1.45 billion in 2019-20 for infrastructure works across the Territory, including:

- continuation of government's \$1.1 billion 10-year Remote Housing Investment Package to improve housing in remote communities
- \$151.7 million for public housing, including \$72.6 million to deliver the two-year \$100 million urban public housing stimulus package, and \$44.1 million to redevelop John Stokes Square in Nightcliff
- upgrading the Territory's roads and transport assets, including \$50 million to construct a new marine facility at Mandorah to improve safety and meet disability standards, \$60.2 million to upgrade and seal various sections of the Plenty Highway and Tjukururu Road, in partnership with the Commonwealth, and \$16.2 million to upgrade and seal priority sections of the Central Arnhem Road.
- economic and community infrastructure including \$41 million for headworks and subdivision works in Berrimah North, Borroloola, Darwin Waterfront, Kalkarindji, Kilgariff, Palmerston East and Zuccoli, \$29.4 million to upgrade Berrimah Farm research facility, and \$9.9 million to develop the Marine Service Area at East Arm.

- infrastructure to enhance the Territory's lifestyle and environment, including \$49.9 million to progress the National Aboriginal Art Gallery in Alice Springs, \$30 million for extensions to art galleries in Arnhem Land, Katherine and Tennant Creek to create an Arts Trail, and \$23.9 million to continue upgrades to recreational fishing infrastructure across the Territory, including \$9.7 million new funding in 2019-20 as part of Government's five-year \$50 million investment in recreational fishing
- projects to improve community safety, including \$70 million to progress contemporary youth justice centres in Darwin and Alice Springs and \$18 million to mitigate the impact of flooding across the Territory
- education infrastructure including, \$11.7 million for a multi-purpose hall at Darwin Middle School to provide flexible-use spaces to support sports, music, arts, drama and provide indoor space for school assemblies, and \$2 million to construct a new building for Tennant Creek High School to support engagement programs such as Stars and Clontarf
- health infrastructure including, \$6.6 million to continue works to refurbish and expand the Nightcliff renal facility, and \$5.8 million for upgrades at Alice Springs Hospital.

Government has fast-tracked five projects totalling \$125.6 million to support the Territory's construction industry and create jobs. These projects include:

- \$50 million for a new Mandorah marine facility
- \$29 million for Stage 2 of Zuccoli Primary School
- \$25 million for a new Palmerston fire station
- \$17.5 million for upgrades to Litchfield National Park.
- \$4.1 million for Kilgariff development stage 2.

### Ensuring local businesses win their fair share

Budget 2019 supports Territory businesses to tender for and win government work through \$0.2 million to continue to support the buy local industry advocate. The buy local industry advocate is an independent link between local businesses and the Northern Territory Government that undertakes an advocacy role in the implementation and effectiveness of the Buy Local Plan and delivery of Value for Territory outcomes.

### Innovation and digital

Innovation is a key driver to accelerate economic growth, create local jobs and support Territory businesses.

Government has launched the Northern Territory Business Innovation Strategy targeted at strengthening business innovation culture and is providing \$1.9 million to implement initiatives that support the strategy. Budget 2019 provides a further \$1 million to support ICT businesses to develop digital innovations in partnership with industry sectors through the Digital Partnerships grant program.

Budget 2019 also invests in a range of information and communication technology projects to improve service delivery and support job creation, including:

- \$66.95 million over five years for an information management platform with full data integration to support and improve frontline child protection service delivery
- \$26.4 million for the new \$45 million SerPro policing management system
- \$5.45 million for the remote communications connectivity and capacity program to continue to improve telecommunications in the Tiwi Islands and ensure remote residents, businesses and visitors have access to reliable communications.

### Population

Attracting more people to the Territory is key to a stronger and more diversified economy. Budget 2019 provides \$6.8 million to continue to implement the 2018-2028 *Northern Territory Population Growth Strategy*, including \$5.1 million for the Welcome to the Territory incentive, focusing on attracting and retaining early and late career workers.

Budget 2019 provides a further \$1.8 million to manage and communicate the NT Masterbrand, which complements the government's population strategy to address misconceptions and attract more people to the Territory.

Government continues to offer a suite of generous home owner incentives for Territorians, including:

- \$6 million for the BuildBonus grant, offering the first 600 people who build a new home in the Territory with a construction grant of \$20 000

- \$5.4 million for home renovation grants of up to \$10 000 for first home buyers to renovate and improve the purchase of an established property
- \$5.2 million for the First Home Owner Grant
- up to \$18 601 stamp duty concession for the purchase of an established home through the Territory Home Owner Discount.

### Gas and resources

The gas and resources sector plays a significant role in the Territory's economy. Budget 2019 invests in the minerals and energy sector to facilitate economic development and jobs growth.

Government has re-established the NT Gas Task Force to implement the Five Point NT Gas Strategy and Budget 2019 provides an additional \$820 000 per annum to support it.

Government has provided \$1 million to commence initial strategic studies to ensure the Territory is well positioned to capitalise on the growth of the oil and gas industry, including studies for gas development of the Beetaloo Sub-basin, Darwin Harbour and Middle Arm. A further \$5 million per annum will be available for the Gas Task Force to support development of the gas industry and the implementation of the NT Gas Strategy.

Budget 2019 also provides:

- \$26 million over four years to continue to deliver the Resourcing the Territory program to stimulate resource exploration and investment attraction
- \$1.48 million to continue implementing recommendations of the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Territory including coordination and advice on petroleum environmental management matters
- \$300 000 per annum to develop Tennant Creek as a mining and mineral services centre and deliver new industries, business opportunities and employment.

### Barkly Regional Deal

Government recognises the significant economic development opportunities in remote communities and regions. Budget 2019 will commence the 10-year \$78.4 million Barkly Regional Deal between the Territory Government, Commonwealth and Barkly Regional Council.

Australia's first ever regional deal introduces 28 new economic and social initiatives to improve the productivity and liveability of the Barkly region and drive economic growth, including:

- \$17.9 million for the installation of a weather radar to support agribusiness and resource exploration decision-making
- \$2.2 million to establish a Barkly Business Hub to support local business creation and growth and attract new business investment
- \$1.3 million to develop a Regional Workforce Strategy and Economic Growth Strategy for the Barkly region
- continuing work being conducted to capitalise on the resource exploration potential of the Barkly region as a mining and mineral services centre
- improving the delivery of the Community Development Program
- maximising Aboriginal employment
- constructing new housing in Barkly and upgrading the Alpururulam airstrip.

### Jabiru futures project

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.

### Primary industries

Budget 2019 continues to support the advancement of the Territory's agricultural sector to stimulate economic development, through:

- \$30 million for the establishment of a Katherine logistics and agribusiness hub to strengthen Katherine's role as the transport crossways for Queensland and Western Australian commodities, and to assist developing the region as a major agricultural area
- \$13 million for a new scientific services laboratory at Berrimah Farm.

### Revitalising our CBDs

Government, in partnership with the Commonwealth and City of Darwin, is transforming the Territory's CBDs into a world class tourist and cultural destination, creating local jobs and supporting local businesses through the 10-year \$200 million City Deals. Budget 2019 provides:

- \$46.6 million to revitalise the Darwin CBD, through:
  - \$31.9 million to redevelop State Square to provide a more liveable space for outdoor events and festivals with a new multi-level car park and landscaped park currently under construction
  - continuing work on the Cavenagh Street Heat Mitigation project
  - revitalising Austin Lane by creating more pedestrian-friendly spaces
  - delivering a new education and civic precinct including a new Charles Darwin University Darwin CBD campus
- \$14.7 million to revitalise the Alice Springs CBD, including the construction of a water play area and heat mitigation works to green and cool the CBD.