

BUDGET 2019-20

Putting Territorians first

The Territory Government is putting Territorians first.
Budget 2019 invests in our future.

Reducing the cost of living for families

Back to school vouchers

Budget 2019 supports families by continuing to deliver \$7.1 million for the Back to School Payment scheme.

The annual \$150 per student school voucher assists with paying back-to-school expenses such as uniforms, stationery, excursions, camps and elective activities.

Sports vouchers

The Territory Government continues to support children being active and healthy through \$5.4 million for the Sports Voucher scheme, which includes Learn to Swim vouchers.

The scheme provides two \$100 sports vouchers each year to every enrolled and home-schooled child from preschool to year 12 in a range of sport, recreation and cultural activities.

Childcare subsidy

Budget 2019 provides \$6 million to continue the early childhood services subsidy for long day care, three-year old kindergarten and family day care services to assist families with costs.

Electricity subsidy

Budget 2019 includes a \$92.5 million Territory Government subsidy to keep the price of power in the Territory one of the lowest in the country and saves families about \$1200 a year on power bills.

Home owner incentives

Budget 2019 provides \$16.6 million for generous and updated home owner incentives, including:

- the BuildBonus grant, offering the first 600 people who build a new home in the Territory with a construction grant of \$20 000
- the first home owner grant for first home buyers purchasing or constructing a new home
- the Territory home owner discount, providing a stamp duty concession for people buying a home for the first time in at least two years in the Territory
- home renovation grants of up to \$10 000 for first home buyers to renovate and improve the purchase of an established property
- a household goods grant of up to \$2000 for first home buyers of new houses.

Future skills vouchers

Budget 2019 provides \$8.4 million over two years for Territorians to upskill through development of a Future Skills Program, including:

- Future Skills Vouchers of up to \$3000 for up to the first 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 registered training organisations and industry organisations to improve infrastructure that supports training programs.

Valuing senior Territorians and helping concession holders

On 1 July 2018, the Territory Government introduced the NT Concession Scheme and NT Seniors Recognition Scheme.

Budget 2019 supports Territorians by putting downward pressure on the cost of living through \$31.64 million to continue to deliver both schemes.

The NT Concession Scheme assists eligible Territorians with the cost of living.

The NT Seniors Recognition Scheme recognises the valuable contribution of seniors and is for Territory residents who are 65 years or older and includes an annual payment of \$500 for travel, electricity or water.

Territory events and festivals

As part of the Turbo2 stimulus package, the government is delivering \$20 million over two years for community festivals and major events.

The additional events and festivals investment is part of a \$62.8 million Turbo2 package over the next two years that will build on the momentum of the successful Turbocharging Tourism stimulus.

Major events will also get a boost with new funding to continue to position the Territory as a major events destination:

- to continue the Alice Springs CBD component of Parrtjima – A Festival in Light as well as continuing support for spectacular light installations and performances at the Desert Park
- to support the continuation of a bigger, better BASSINTHEGRASS at its new Mindil Beach home base
- to support events like Darwin Triple Crown, Red CentreNATS and Darwin Festival.

Investment in arts and culture includes:

- \$1.9 million to support the Territory screen industry
- \$1.8 million for community art gallery upgrades
- support for remote and regional festivals such as the Barunga Festival.

AFL and NRL

Budget 2019 continues to bring top class sporting events to the Territory, including \$1.7 million to deliver AFL premiership games and \$1 million to host NRL games.

Recreational fishing

Budget 2019 provides \$9.7 million for upgrades to recreational fishing infrastructure across the Territory as part of government's five-year \$50 million investment in recreational fishing. Projects in 2019 include:

- \$2 million towards artificial reefs and fish aggregation devices
- \$0.65 million for a recreational fishing survey
- \$0.4 million in recreational fishing grants
- \$0.3 million for the Darwin region Fish Stocking Program.

Projects already completed as part of the \$50 million funding include the upgrade of the Shady Camp boat ramp, installation of Dinah Beach boat ramp CCTV cameras and toilets, Middle Arm boat ramp car park upgrade, sealing the Corroboree Billabong road, replacing the Manton Dam barramundi net, upgrading the Melville Bay boat ramp, undertaking a land-based fishing platform consultancy and installing Dundee Beach boat ramp lighting.

Ensuring local businesses win their fair share

Budget 2019 supports Territory businesses to tender for and win government work, including \$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 the Territory outcomes.