



Clare Martin
CHIEF MINISTER



1 May 2007

***** STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 11AM TUESDAY 1 MAY 2007 *****

BUDGET 2007 SECURES THE TERRITORY'S LIFESTYLE

Chief Minister, Clare Martin, said Budget 2007 provides the most comprehensive plans for securing the Territory lifestyle of any of the Government's budgets.

"This Budget provides both immediate and long term plans for the growth, development and lifestyle of the Territory," Ms Martin said.

"It secures the Territory lifestyle by emphasising strong economic management, getting Territorians into their own homes and creating thousands of jobs.

"It provides Territorians with the opportunity to get the skills they need to fill the skills gaps in our economy.

"The Budget supports fishing, the arts, sport, our great parks and the wonderful major events and festivals which have come to be an increasingly important part of our calendar."

A JOB SECURES A DECENT LIFESTYLE

"The Territory's Budget will sustain thousands of jobs, and a job goes a long way in securing a decent lifestyle," Ms Martin said.

"The \$645 million cash infrastructure budget alone will sustain around 5800 jobs directly with thousands more indirectly.

"The \$38.3 million tourism budget sustains an industry that directly employs 8000 and indirectly supports at least twice that number," said the Chief Minister.

"The Government itself will support around 15 000 families through the number of Territorians who work in the public sector," she said.

"Add to that the \$3.3 billion injection into the economy that today's Budget represents and you can see the large role the Government still plays in the Territory economy."

CREATING FAMILY FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

"Budget 2007 includes \$2 million as part of a program of creating family friendly suburbs and neighbourhoods," Clare Martin said.

“This program has been very active. We have provided direct grants to councils and local government bodies to light parks and to put in playground equipment.

“Over the last couple of years laneways and parks have been lit and made safe right across the Territory. This year lighting will be put into place in Tennant Creek, Karama and Nakara,” she said.

“Parks and public areas in Alice Springs, Darwin, Gunbalunya and Adelaide River will be beautified and made family friendly with playground equipment and shade cloth.

“The Government will also fund improvements to the public areas around shopping centres which usually are the centre of our neighbourhoods. This year \$150 000 will be provided to the Karama shops and a further \$150 000 to the Wulagi shops,” Clare Martin said.

FISHING IN THE TERRITORY

The Chief Minister said that this years’ Budget delivers \$2.8 million for a new boat ramp at East Arm and \$500 000 to fund other fishing infrastructure.

“The Territory Government will also ensure that amateur fishers continue to be supported by providing \$170 000 funding to the Amateur Fishermen’s Association,” said the Chief Minister.

“To protect fishing into the future, Budget 2007 provides \$1.8 million for fishing research,” said Ms Martin.

“Budget 2007 also showcases recreational fishing with funding for exhibits on the show circuit and for logistical support for five major annual fishing tournaments.”

PROTECTING THE TERRITORY’S RIVERS

“Territory rivers are the lifeblood of recreational fishing and provide all of us with the opportunity to get away from it all for a weekend or longer,” Clare Martin said.

“The Government’s Living Rivers program links the Australian and Territory Governments and the community to protect these great rivers. This year \$1 million is allocated to the strategy,” she said.

“The Daly River is a particularly important river; \$1 million will be provided for development and implementation of the Daly River Adaptive Management Plan.

SUPPORTING TERRITORY SPORT

“Territorians love to play and watch sport, or just be part of a general fitness program,” said the Chief Minister.

This year Budget 2007 provides:

- \$20.7 million for sport and recreation in the Territory
- \$3.5 million for sports grants to support clubs, administrators and volunteers

“Territory netball gets a new home with a \$4.8 million stadium to be built at the Marrara Sporting Complex,” said the Chief Minister.

WORLD CLASS EVENTS FOR THE TERRITORY

In Budget 2007 the Territory Government will fund world class events for Territorians to see and be part of, including:

- High quality Australian Football League matches
- A National Basketball League match in 2008
- \$1.07 million for V8 Supercars from 22 to 24 June 2007
- An Australian Rugby League match in Alice Springs
- A pre-season A-League football match in Darwin

A MULTICULTURAL TERRITORY

Budget 2007 supports the diverse and multicultural Territory with:

- \$741 000 for the Multicultural Affairs Sponsorship Grant
- \$363 000 for the Translating and Interpreting Service
- \$350 000 for the Multicultural Facilities Development Program

TERRITORY ARTS

“Territorians are proudly creative. Budget 2007 supports that creativity by:

- \$5.5 million arts sponsorship
- \$12.3 million for the Museum and Art Gallery at Bullocky Point
- \$4.3 million for the Araluen and Alice Springs Arts Precinct
- \$4 million for 27 public libraries
- \$642 000 for the Strehlow Museum,” said Ms Martin.

“These commitments combined with our strong support for the environment will see Budget 2007 secure the Territory lifestyle.”

Contact: Richard O’Leary 0401 119 586

*** Please note this press release covers portfolios under the jurisdiction of other Ministers. Please direct inquiries as appropriate. Eg, for inquiries relating fishing, contact the office of the Minister for Fisheries, Chris Natt. ***