

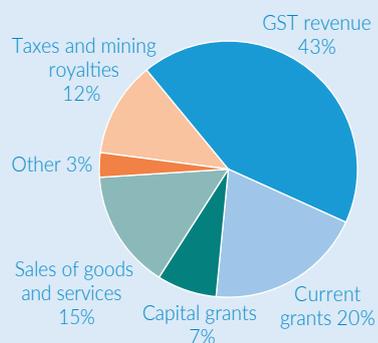
BUDGET AND REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Contents

Fiscal outlook	2
Economic outlook	4
Infrastructure investment	6
Bringing more investment to the Territory	8
Backing the best opportunities for growth	10
A safer Territory	12
Regional overview	14

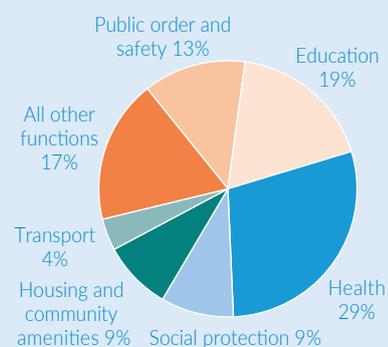
Revenue

Territory revenue is expected to be \$7.4 billion for the non financial public sector in 2021-22.



Operating expenses

In 2021-22, Territory operating expenses for the non financial public sector are estimated to be \$7.94 billion. The key functions of health, education, and public order and safety comprise 61% of total expenses.



Total infrastructure payments

	2021-22 Budget	
	Program	Cash
	\$M	\$M
General government		
Capital works	2 760	952
Capital grants		92
Repairs and maintenance		215
Infrastructure-related expenses		15
Total	1 274	
Government owned corporations		345
Total infrastructure payments	1 619	

Fiscal outlook

The 2021 Budget and fiscal outlook has improved significantly when compared to the 2020 Budget that was delivered only six months ago. Improvements in the Territory's GST and own-source revenue, mainly mining royalties, are the key factors contributing to the improved fiscal outlook.

The Territory Government continues to focus its investment on initiatives aimed at protecting Territorians against COVID-19, bringing more investment to the Territory and backing the best opportunities for growth.

Updated fiscal projections include:

- infrastructure investment of \$1.62 billion in 2021-22 with major projects including remote housing and upgrades to the Territory's road network
- a general government net operating balance deficit of \$497 million in 2021-22, increasing to a deficit of \$570 million in 2024-25
- a non financial public sector fiscal balance deficit of \$1.36 billion in 2021-22, reducing to a deficit of \$629 million in 2024-25
- net debt at the non financial public sector of \$9 billion in 2021-22, rising to \$11.4 billion in 2024-25, as a direct result of the fiscal deficits
- the net debt to revenue ratio, consistent with increasing net debt, projected to rise from 122% in 2021-22 to 166% in 2024-25.

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
	Revised	Budget	Forward estimate		
	\$M	\$M	\$M	\$M	\$M
General government sector					
Net operating balance	- 1 240	- 497	- 536	- 480	- 570
Non financial public sector					
Fiscal balance	- 1 873	- 1 356	- 1 215	- 807	- 629
Net debt	7 662	9 001	10 163	10 866	11 405
Net debt to revenue (%)	111	122	146	155	166

Significant improvements in the net operating and fiscal balance since the 2020 Budget have reduced estimated net debt in all years across the budget and forward estimates, including a reduction of \$1.1 billion by 2023-24.

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
	Revised	Budget	Forward estimate		
	\$M	\$M	\$M	\$M	\$M
Net debt					
2020-21 Budget	8 404	10 084	11 149	12 004	n/a
2021-22 Budget	7 662	9 001	10 163	10 866	11 405
Variation from 2020-21 Budget	- 742	- 1 083	- 986	- 1 138	n/a

n/a: not available at the time of publishing the 2020 Budget.

GST revenue

GST revenue is the Territory's single largest revenue source and is estimated to comprise 42.7% of total revenue for 2021-22.

In 2021-22, the Territory's GST revenue is expected to increase to \$3.16 billion, \$263 million or 9.1% greater than the 2020-21 revised budget. The increase is largely driven by a significant improvement in the national GST pool following the effects of COVID-19, particularly in early 2021 as business and border restrictions eased. The Territory's GST relativity also improved from 4.76893 in 2020-21 to 4.79985 in 2021-22.

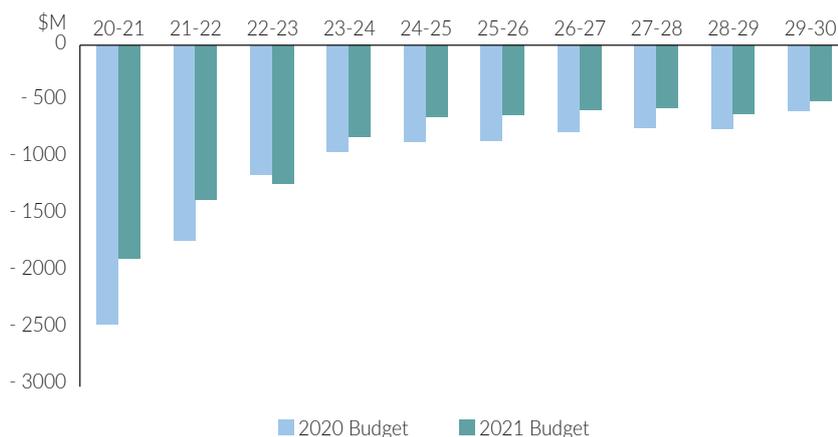
	2020-21 Revised	2021-22 Budget	2022-23 Forward estimate	2023-24 Forward estimate	2024-25 Forward estimate
Territory GST revenue ¹ (\$M)	2 896	3 159	3 127	3 207	3 302
Annual change in Territory GST revenue (%)	8.9	9.1	- 1.0	2.6	3.0

1 GST revenue for 2020-21 includes a balancing adjustment for the overpayment of GST revenue to the Territory in the preceding year.

Medium-term fiscal outlook

The Territory's medium-term outlook has improved since the 2020 Budget. However, the estimated increases in GST revenue are not sufficient to offset the cumulative loss of Commonwealth revenues over recent years. Accordingly, without significant reductions in government expenditure that would undermine service standards or worsen economic outcomes, the fiscal balance is not projected to return to surplus over the medium-term outlook.

The chart below compares the updated projections in the 2021 Budget for the non financial public sector's fiscal balance with those reported in the 2020 Budget.



Given the uncertainty associated with the impacts of COVID-19 on the national economy, including lockdowns, border restrictions and consumer confidence, there is a high degree of unreliability and volatility associated with 10-year projections.

Consistent with economic forecasts, the fiscal outlook does not factor in the impact of potential or planned projects yet to reach final investment decision.

A plan to fix the budget

Two new measures from the plan will commence 1 July 2021 to strengthen budget accountability.

Strengthening chief executive accountability

Amendments will be made to the *Financial Management Act 1995* requiring chief executives to limit expenditure to within their approved budget.

This will be reinforced through a Chief Executive Code of Conduct, requiring chief executives to operate within approved budget and employee expense caps, with defined responses to non-compliance, including:

- a formal warning
- an independent financial review of the agency
- suspension of the chief executive, with or without pay
- termination of the chief executive

Debt ceiling

A legislated debt ceiling demonstrates government's commitment to budget repair and strengthened financial accountability. It will limit the Territory's total borrowings (excluding finance leases) to \$15 billion.

The ceiling can only be suspended in certain circumstances, such as natural disaster or pandemic.

Barossa Project

The economic outlook incorporates the Barossa Project, which achieved final investment decision in March 2021.

The Barossa Project will supply gas to the Darwin LNG plant. The \$5 billion project kick-starts an additional \$800 million investment for the Darwin LNG plant and pipeline tie-in projects, which will extend the plant's life for about 20 years. Work is expected to commence in the second half of 2021, with LNG production targeted for the first half of 2025.

Local supplies and employment for the Darwin LNG plant upgrade will be significantly greater than for the offshore component of the project, and LNG production recommencing in 2024-25 will provide a significant and ongoing boost to exports.

The majority of works to deliver the offshore components of the project will be sourced from overseas, with the floating production, storage and offloading vessel to be built in South Korea and Singapore before being towed to the Barossa field.

It is expected the Darwin LNG plant will cease production temporarily in mid-2023 when gas feedstock from the Bayu-Undan field is depleted.

Economic outlook

The Territory's economic recovery is expected to be faster than previously anticipated in the 2020 Budget with improvement in all key economic indicators in the 2021 Budget.

Territory key economic indicators (%)

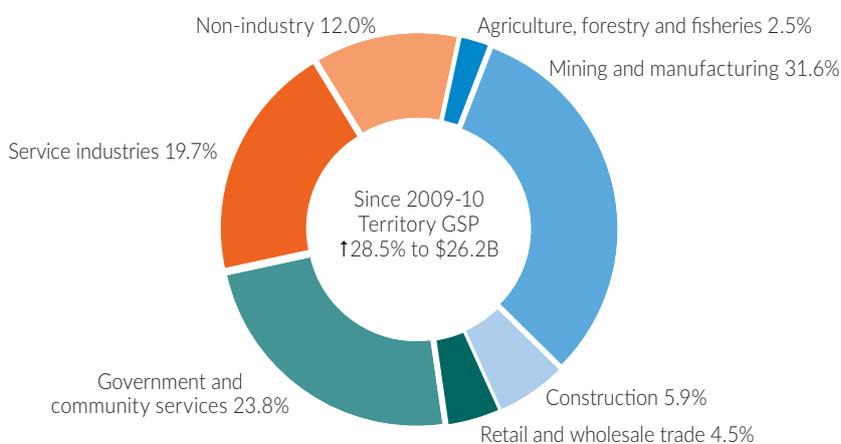
	2019-20a	2020-21e	2021-22f	2022-23f	2023-24f	2024-25f
Gross state product	5.3	4.7	2.3	3.1	- 0.3	2.3
State final demand	- 4.7	4.2	4.3	3.9	2.7	- 3.1
Population	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.8	0.9	1.0
Employment	- 0.6	- 0.6	1.8	1.7	1.1	0.7
Unemployment rate	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.1	4.9	4.8
Consumer price index	0.2	0.7	1.8	1.4	1.8	2.2
Wage price index	2.3	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.4

a: actual; e: estimate; f: forecast

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS

In the past decade, the Territory's gross state product (GSP) has grown from \$20.4 billion in 2009-10 to \$26.2 billion in 2019-20, a 28.5% increase. Over the same period, the Territory's population has increased by around 16,400 (or 7.1%) to 246,000 people.

Industry contributions to GSP, 2019-20



Source: ABS Cat. No. 5220.0; Department of Treasury and Finance

COVID-19 had a significant impact on the Territory's GSP and state final demand (SFD) in 2019-20. GSP increased by 5.3% as exports grew by more than 30%, while SFD, a measure of domestic activity that excludes net exports, declined by 4.7%.

Due in large part to the Territory's effective health response and significant government stimulus, the economic recovery is expected to be faster than previously anticipated. In 2020-21, GSP is estimated to increase by 4.7% and SFD is estimated to increase by 4.2%, which represents a significant turnaround in the domestic economy.

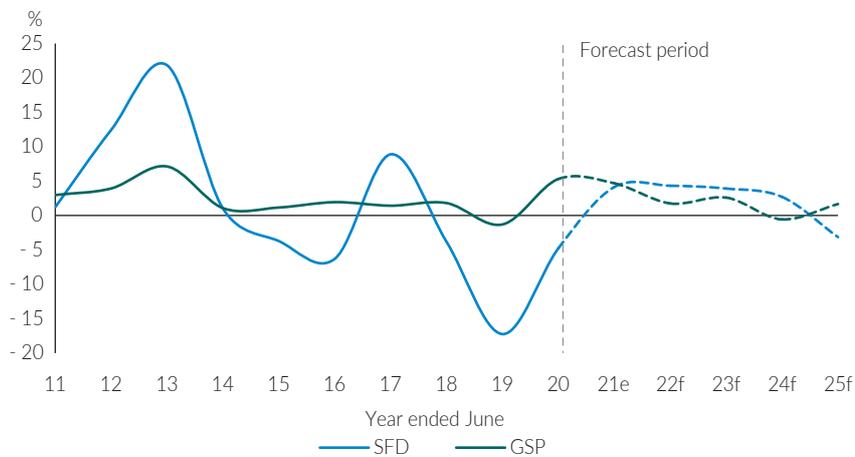
Activity in 2021-22 is expected to return to long-run levels, and economic growth is forecast to average 2.4% per annum in the five years to 2024-25.

Economic growth

After a year of significant government stimulus, economic growth will be driven by more fundamental factors in 2021-22 and is expected to be more broadly based across consumption and investment, and the private and public sectors. Consumption growth is expected to remain positive, supported by a return to solid employment growth and a recovery in population growth. Growth will also be driven by stronger private and public sector investment.

There is significant potential upside to the economic outlook, with a number of projects on the horizon yet to reach final investment decision. These projects are not included in the forecasts. If any of these projects commence over the forward estimates, there will be a positive impact on the forecasts.

Changes to Territory gross state product and state final demand

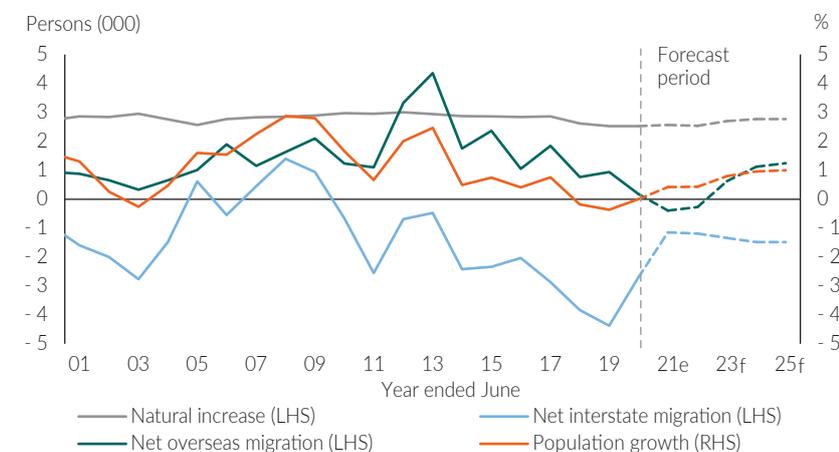


e: estimate; f: forecast; GSP: gross state product; SFD: state final demand
Source: ABS Cat. No. 5220.0; Department of Treasury and Finance

Population

Population is estimated to increase by 0.3% in 2020-21, 0.5% in 2021-22 and strengthen over the forward estimates as economic growth underpins employment. Border restrictions and uncertainty arising from COVID-19 are expected to disrupt interstate and international migration flows for some time.

Components of Territory population growth¹



e: estimate; f: forecast; LHS: left-hand side; RHS: right-hand side

¹ Moving annual total.

Source: ABS Cat. No. 3101.0; Department of Treasury and Finance

Digital infrastructure

The Territory Government is working to position the Territory to become northern Australia's most advanced digital economy and Australia's digital gateway to Asia and beyond.

The Territory Government is partnering with Vocus to deliver Terabit Territory – a secure, high speed terabit network with connections to Adelaide and Queensland. It is on track to be completed in late 2021. Other digital infrastructure projects currently proposed include:

- Vocus' Jakarta–Singapore link, for a direct, subsea fibre-optic link from Darwin to Singapore
- Project Echo, a subsea cable connecting Singapore to the United States with a planned branch to Darwin
- HyperOne, a \$1.5 billion project for Australia's first hyper-scale national fibre network
- Project Koete, a subsea fibre-optic cable from Perth to Darwin and into South-East Asia
- Industry 4.0 Defence and Security Testlab.

Enhanced digital connectivity will help establish the Territory as a major data centre and digital services hub. The Territory Government will announce the successful proponent of the expression of interest for the project in mid-2021.

Economic development

The 2021 Budget invests \$175 million in the Territory's economic future, including:

- \$92.9 million for minor works across the Territory, generating a constant pipeline of projects to support local businesses
- \$74.6 million to continue transitioning Jabiru to a services and tourism hub with electricity network upgrades, National Broadband Network rollout, a new health clinic, upgrading the Jabiru airport and works on municipal and essential services
- \$41.3 million to continue expanding residential, commercial and industrial land opportunities in Alice Springs, Berrimah North, Borroloola, Kalkarindji and Zuccoli
- \$28.9 million to continue subdivision and headworks to support the release of flood-free land in Katherine East.

Total infrastructure payments

	2021-22 Budget	
	Program	Cash
	\$M	\$M
General government		
Capital works	2 760	952
<i>Northern Territory funded</i>		400
<i>Externally funded</i>		552
Capital grants		92
Repairs and maintenance		215
Infrastructure-related expenses		15
Total general government		1 274
Total public non financial corporations		345
Total infrastructure payments		1 619

Infrastructure investment

The 2021 Budget provides \$1.62 billion to support economic development, create jobs and better connect and service communities by investing in infrastructure projects throughout the Territory.

Driving the economy

The 2021 Budget allocates \$1.27 billion in Territory and Commonwealth funding to upgrade Territory roads and transport assets, including:

- \$297.2 million to improve freight efficiency, connectivity and access to remote and local communities along the Buntine Highway, Carpentaria Highway, Central Arnhem Road and various roads within Kakadu National Park
- \$255.1 million for road safety upgrades on Territory highways and arterial roads through the Road Safety Program, which includes strengthening and widening the Carpentaria and Stuart highways, resurfacing arterial roads in urban areas, and constructing a new overpass at the Tiger Brennan Drive and Berrimah Road intersection
- \$83.9 million for other transport-related infrastructure, including \$20 million for the Frances Bay Mooring Basin
- \$2.5 million for new works to seal and line mark the aerodrome at Ali Curung, which will develop local industry and improve access to health and other essential services. A further \$9.2 million is allocated to continue upgrading regional aerodromes to meet industry standards and improve usability.



Economic inclusion

The 2021 Budget provides \$753.4 million to support greater social and economic participation, and improve living standards through new and refurbished housing upgrades, modernising city centres and enhancing communal spaces. Highlights include:

- \$369 million in Territory and Commonwealth Government funding to build new homes in remote communities and improve livability of existing houses to ease the pressure of overcrowding, build more government employee accommodation, and land servicing and headworks for new housing lots
- \$38.4 million to continue works to transform Darwin's CBD into a contemporary centre to attract more tourists and local visitors
- \$26.1 million to complete John Stokes Square in Nightcliff, improving the quality of housing, amenities and liveability in the community.

Our parks and culture

The 2021 Budget commits \$202.8 million to showcase the Territory's rich culture and history, generate tourism and create jobs, including:

- \$66.2 million to progress the National Aboriginal Art Gallery and National Indigenous Cultural Centre in Alice Springs
- \$40 million to upgrade transport infrastructure in our national parks and open up new attractions such as the walking tracks at Watarrka National Park, new cycling track, swimming and picnic areas at West MacDonnell National Park, and 4WD tracks at Litchfield National Park
- \$20 million for new art galleries, display areas and studio upgrades as part of the Arts Trail Gallery Extension Program across Katherine, Tennant Creek and Arnhem Land.

Protecting Territorians

The 2021 Budget provides \$147.8 million to enhance community safety. Projects include:

- \$64.4 million for new and continuing works to construct new youth justice centres in Darwin and Alice Springs
- \$42.8 million for continuing works to ensure police and essential services in regional and rural areas have fit-for-purpose facilities, including multipurpose police complexes in Angurugu, Maningrida and Ngukurr, a new regional fire, rescue and emergency services complex in Palmerston and renovations to the Tennant Creek watch house
- \$9.3 million to continue fitting out facilities to support youth diversion
- \$1.7 million to upgrade police facilities in regional and remote communities including office space at Batchelor police station, stormwater drainage at Wadeye police station and fencing at Yuendumu police station.

Health upgrades

The 2021 Budget invests \$137.4 million in upgrading health infrastructure, including:

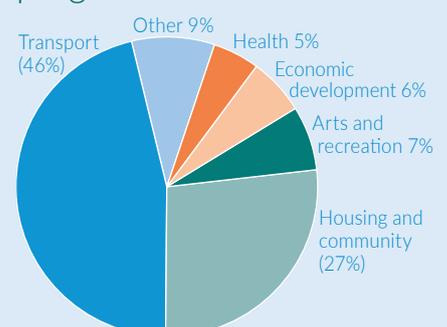
- \$49.9 million for Royal Darwin Hospital
- \$43 million for Alice Springs Hospital
- \$17.3 million for sterilisation services across Territory hospitals
- \$11.7 million for Gove District Hospital
- \$0.9 million for health centres in Adelaide River, Angurugu, Bonya, Epenarra, Gunbalanya, Papunya and Ti Tree.

School upgrades

The 2021 Budget invests \$37 million in better learning environments, including:

- \$8.8 million for the Building Better Schools program
- \$6.5 million for new transportable classrooms to replace ageing infrastructure to alleviate capacity pressures
- \$1.9 million to install rooftop solar in schools.

Investment categories – program



Improving skills, training and employability

The 2021 Budget supports Territorians to acquire new skills, access new opportunities and help prepare for the jobs of the future by providing:

- \$43.4 million in training for apprentices and trainees
- \$30.5 million for skills training through registered training organisations
- \$8.5 million for Aboriginal jobs development for regional councils
- \$3.5 million in Aboriginal workforce and business development programs
- \$2 million for Future Skills vouchers for Territorians to engage in training to future-proof their skills
- \$1.7 million to train Aboriginal mentors and rangers to enable Aboriginal communities to access economic opportunities from fishing
- \$1.6 million to continue developing a Regional Workforce Strategy to identify practical measures to increase Aboriginal employment.

Bringing more investment to the Territory

As the Territory economy rebounds, government's focus is on prioritising investment to maximise opportunities to create jobs, support business and attract private investment to accelerate economic growth.

Creating new roles to attract investment

The 2021 Budget invests \$1 million per annum from 2021-22 to establish an Investment Commissioner and a Major Projects Commissioner to act as key links between industry and government, and actively pursue investment and business reforms needed to achieve Government's target of a \$40 billion economy by 2030.

The Investment Commissioner will accelerate the Territory's economic growth by attracting investment to the Territory. As part of this, the commissioner will oversee a new \$5 million fund to partner with industry to find new investment opportunities in target sectors, including advanced manufacturing, renewable energy and digital industries.

The Major Projects Commissioner will be the point of coordination for major projects and make it easier for businesses to navigate approvals and create Territory jobs.

The Northern Territory Government has also committed \$0.8 million in 2021-22 and \$2.8 million ongoing to create Infrastructure NT to establish a strategic infrastructure planning and development function that plans for, coordinates and aligns infrastructure needs with industry and population growth. Its head, the Infrastructure Commissioner, will work in conjunction with the Investment and Major Projects commissioners as well as Infrastructure Australia to secure investment and make projects happen.

Infrastructure NT will develop a new Territory Infrastructure Strategy incorporating annual infrastructure plans, to get the right infrastructure built at the right time, in the right place.





Ready for growth

The Territory Government is planning for future population and economic growth through the strategic release of residential and industrial land. The 2021 Budget includes:

- \$151.9 million for land servicing to support the delivery of new dwellings under the Territory and Commonwealth governments' investment in remote housing across the Territory
- \$28.9 million for headworks infrastructure and subdivision works to progress the Katherine logistics and agribusiness hub
- \$16.2 million for industrial land in Alice Springs, with land investigations for future potential releases in Arumbera and Brewer Estate
- \$13.2 million to continue headworks as part of the Berrimah North Area Plan
- \$10.1 million for flood mitigation and headworks to support release of flood-free land in Katherine East to provide a variety of lot types and sizes to accommodate a mix of dwellings
- \$8.3 million for stage 2 of the Kilgariff residential development
- \$3.9 million for residential, commercial and industrial land in Kalkarindji
- \$1.1 million for land use planning, land investigations, concept planning and design of enabling infrastructure for the future suburbs of Holtze and Kowandi, near Palmerston.

Preliminary investigations have commenced to determine the development requirements for a multimodal and agribusiness hub in Tennant Creek.

Middle Arm

Activities are also underway to develop a master plan for Middle Arm to support the establishment of an advanced manufacturing precinct, including baseline studies to support precinct planning and development potential.

Construction is also underway at Middle Arm on stage 1 of the Kittyhawk Estate, which will provide three strategic investment lots.

Supporting industry development

The 2021 Budget supports government's goal of diversifying the economy through new and ongoing initiatives, including:

- \$10 million over five years, including \$1 million in 2021-22, to progress new advanced manufacturing opportunities
- \$3.3 million for research and development to improve productivity and profitability of the Territory's cattle industry
- \$3.7 million, including \$1.5 million in 2021-22, to accelerate works for the Manton Dam and Adelaide River off-stream water storage projects
- \$2.5 million to support sustainable horticulture production
- \$2 million to deliver grants and event workshops to support business innovation
- \$1.5 million over three years, for sustainable development precincts
- \$1.2 million to develop agribusiness and facilitate major agribusiness projects
- \$0.6 million for the Digital Partnership program, supporting local ICT businesses to develop digital innovations in partnership with other industry sectors in the Territory.

Developing the renewables sector

The government recognises the potential for renewable energy to be a driver of economic development and jobs growth, and is committed to achieving 50% renewable energy by 2030. The 2021 Budget contains a number of initiatives to continue developing this sector, including:

- \$8.6 million over four years (with \$6 million in 2021-22) to transition remote communities to renewable power, including installing solar photovoltaic and better energy and storage systems under the Renewable Remote Power Program
- \$2.8 million to continue the Home and Business Battery Scheme, providing Territory homeowners, businesses and not-for-profit organisations grants to buy and install batteries and inverters
- \$2.5 million for the Office of Climate Change to address climate risk and manage the Territory's transition to a low-carbon economy
- \$1.2 million, including \$0.8 million in 2021-22, to undertake a study into developing high voltage direct current transmission links between Darwin and Alice Springs and opportunities this would present for growing the renewable energy sector.

Backing the best opportunities for growth

The Territory is home to abundant resources, spectacular landscapes and vibrant Aboriginal culture, in close proximity to significant growth markets. By funding initiatives that capitalise on these strategic advantages, the 2021 Budget backs the best opportunities to grow our economy and improve living standards for all Territorians.

Driving the Territory's resources industry

The mining sector is worth \$4.4 billion per annum to the Territory economy. The economic benefits of mining are significant and benefit all regions of the Territory, particularly remote and regional areas.

To accelerate growth, the 2021 Budget invests \$0.3 million to support the Mineral Development Taskforce. The taskforce will identify new opportunities, recommend options to increase private sector investment and accelerate the conversion of prospective to operational mines. Funding is also provided to support a range of initiatives to encourage new resource projects, while providing appropriate regulation of the industry and protecting our natural environment. The 2021 Budget includes:

- \$8.8 million to continue undertaking a Strategic Regional and Environmental Baseline Assessment of the Beetaloo Basin to better understand and assess the regional effects of onshore gas development
- \$6.5 million in 2021-22 and \$9.5 million ongoing from 1 July 2022 to develop the mineral and petroleum potential of the Territory by providing pre-competitive geoscience, investment attraction and exploration stimulus programs designed to increase exploration activity and success rates
- \$5.2 million to support the efficient and effective administration of mining activities and conduct petroleum operations and pipeline site-specific inspections of approved activities, including monitoring and compliance



- \$2.3 million for ongoing regulatory and assessment requirements associated with the anticipated growth of the onshore gas industry
- \$2.3 million for land management and hazard reduction works and engagement activities at the former Rum Jungle mine site near Batchelor
- \$2.2 million for the NT Gas Task Force to support development of the Territory's gas industry.

Tourism and hospitality

The tourism and hospitality sectors comprise a range of industries, including accommodation and food services, retail trade, culture and recreation, and transport. The Territory Government is supporting the sector to bounce back from the impact of COVID-19 by partnering with industry and prioritising product development, and encouraging travellers to visit the Territory.

The 2021 Budget includes:

- \$5.9 million per annum in additional funding to support the recovery and development of the tourism and hospitality sectors through focused and effective marketing, and business and industry support programs
- \$5 million in 2021-22 for a further Territory tourism voucher campaign to encourage Territorians to holiday at home over the low season
- \$5 million in 2021-22 to implement an incentive scheme to boost interstate tourism over the low season
- \$4 million in 2021-22 to extend the Roadhouse to Recovery grant program to support drive tourism by improving customer experience
- \$1 million in additional marketing in 2021-22 to promote the Red Centre
- \$1 million in 2021-22 and then \$2 million ongoing for the Business Event Support Fund.

The 2021 Budget also invests \$23.8 million for events and festivals to draw visitors to the Territory and enhance the Territory lifestyle.

Critical worker support package

The Territory Government's \$2 million critical worker support package is aimed at attracting hospitality and tourism workers to the Territory to alleviate current pressures around a worker shortfall. The package includes:

- free short courses for responsible service of alcohol, housekeeping and tour guiding
- increased opportunities to match apprentices to employers through apprentice fairs
- English literacy training for hospitality and tourism workers
- the 'Territory – Stay, Work and Play' initiative to provide a payment of up to \$1,500 to a local business to help cover costs associated with attracting a new employee.

World class parks

The Territory is renowned on the global tourism stage for outstanding nature, culture and adventure experiences that are largely delivered across our vast network of national parks and reserves. The 2021 Budget invests in these world-class natural assets, including:

- \$17 million in Commonwealth funding for Kakadu National Park road upgrades to support tourism growth
- \$11.9 million over four years to continue the Aboriginal Ranger Grants program to undertake conservation and land management on country
- \$5.7 million to continue works at Litchfield National Park, including the East Reynolds adventure hub, new swimming areas, campgrounds, picnic areas and 4WD tracks.

Arts and screen

The 2021 Budget is growing the Territory's emerging arts and screen industries, with:

- \$7.3 million, including additional funding of \$2.2 million, to continue the Arts and Culture Grants Program
- \$3.1 million to support growth of the Territory screen industry
- \$0.6 million to fund First Nations capability-building arts and cultural camps.

More resources for safer communities

The 2021 Budget includes \$488.4 million for police, fire and emergency services throughout the Territory, including an additional \$23 million in 2021-22 comprising:

- \$19.6 million for additional base funding
- \$1.3 million to increase CCTV monitoring staff
- \$0.9 million for ICT system costs to support worker screening for the National Disability Insurance Scheme
- \$0.7 million for Northern Territory Emergency Services
- \$0.5 million to expand school-based policing.



A safer Territory

The 2021 Budget invests \$722 million over two years for the COVID-19 response and returning Australian citizens, keeping the Territory the safest place to be from the pandemic. The Budget also includes \$1.72 billion to support police and emergency services, law and order, and youth justice.

Staying safe from the virus

The Territory Government has partnered with the Commonwealth to deliver a number of targeted initiatives aimed at supporting Australia's response to the pandemic.

Centre for National Resilience

The Territory Government has entered into an agreement with the Commonwealth to provide COVID-19 quarantine arrangements at the Northern Territory Centre for National Resilience for organised repatriation of Australians. Under the agreement, the Howard Springs quarantine facility will be able to gradually scale-up to 2,000 overseas arrivals per fortnight from May 2021 until December 2021. The Territory expects to receive \$240 million under the agreement in 2020-21 and \$274 million in 2021-22.

National partnership on COVID-19 response

The agreement was established in early 2020 to provide additional funding to assist the states and territories in managing public health responses to COVID-19. In February 2021, the agreement was amended to include details for the coordination and delivery of the COVID-19 Vaccination Program across Australia. Funding under the program is provided on a 50/50 fixed price cost-sharing basis with the Commonwealth, states and territories to share the direct cost per vaccination dose. The Territory Government will cover all other additional costs related to the delivery of vaccinations across our communities. In the Territory, the COVID-19 vaccination program commenced in March 2021 and is being accelerated in line with decisions at National Cabinet. The Territory expects to receive \$53.2 million in 2020-21, with funding in 2021-22 contingent on demand for services.

In response to COVID-19, the Territory Government has delivered a strong public health approach to controlling the outbreak in the Territory. The 2021 Budget continues to keep Territorians safe from COVID-19 through:

- \$25 million in 2020-21 and \$15 million in 2021-22 for medical and support staff at quarantine facilities, screening at airports and rail terminals, pandemic clinics and hotlines, and the vaccine rollout
- \$3.5 million for utilities, maintenance and upgrades at the Howard Springs quarantine facility, in addition to infrastructure requirements associated with maintaining border checkpoints and the Emergency Operations Centre.

Improving community safety

The 2021 Budget provides \$6.8 million to continue funding first response services to address antisocial behaviour issues in Darwin, Palmerston and Alice Springs, including:

- \$4.2 million for security patrols and CCTV monitoring
- \$0.9 million for youth cultural outreach engagement programs and transport safety services
- \$0.7 million for the Larrakia Host program
- \$0.5 million for Return to Country services
- \$0.5 million for youth security night patrols.

In addition, \$2.8 million is provided to continue funding security services across the Territory's bus network and \$1 million will fund the Alice Springs 24-hour youth drop-in centre, expand victim offender conferencing, and implement community accountability boards and family responsibility agreements.

Courts and correctional services

The 2021 Budget supports Territory's courts and correctional facilities to deliver safer communities and reduce reoffending, including:

- \$64.4 million for new and upgraded youth justice centres in Alice Springs and Darwin
- \$15 million in 2020-21 and \$10 million per annum from 2021-22 in additional base budget funding for correctional services
- \$6.6 million for community corrections and electronic monitoring
- \$1.5 million to continue trialling an Alternatives to Custody model in Alice Springs and to support a new facility in Groote Eylandt.

Supporting access to justice

The 2021 Budget supports access to justice for all Territorians to ensure we live in a fair society where legal rights and property interests are protected.

Funding includes:

- \$15.3 million, including \$9 million of Commonwealth funding, for the Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission and community legal centres to improve access to justice and resolve legal problems for the most disadvantaged people in the Territory
- \$15.1 million for the Northern Australia Aboriginal Justice Agency to provide criminal and civil law services to Aboriginal people in the Top End
- \$7.8 million for the Crime Victims Services Unit, including an additional \$1.5 million per annum from 2020-21.

Safer community spaces

The 2021 Budget allocates \$2 million per annum for the new Safer Territory Places grant program, which will support organisations, businesses, councils and other groups to implement initiatives that create safer places, including:

- installation of bollards
- additional security coverage
- graffiti removal
- technology innovation
- safety audits
- investments in crime prevention through environmental design infrastructure such as safety focused landscaping.

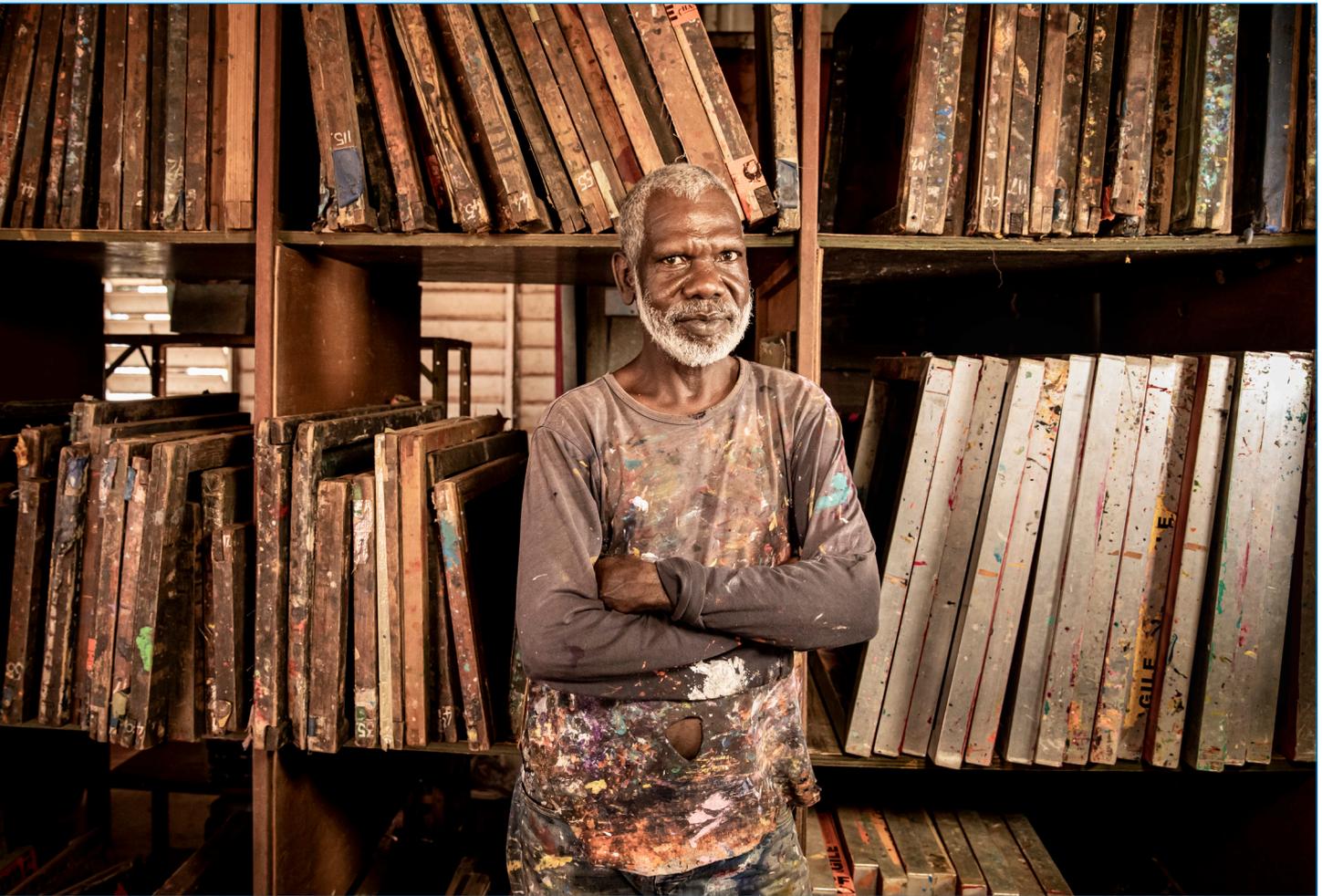
Biz Secure

The 2021 Budget provides funding of \$2.1 million per annum for three years from 2021-22 to continue the Biz Secure program.

Biz Secure offers Territory businesses co-contribution grants of up to \$10,000 for security improvement works, of which \$2,000 covers the cost of a mandatory security audit, with the remaining \$8,000 available on a 50:50 contribution basis for security improvement works.

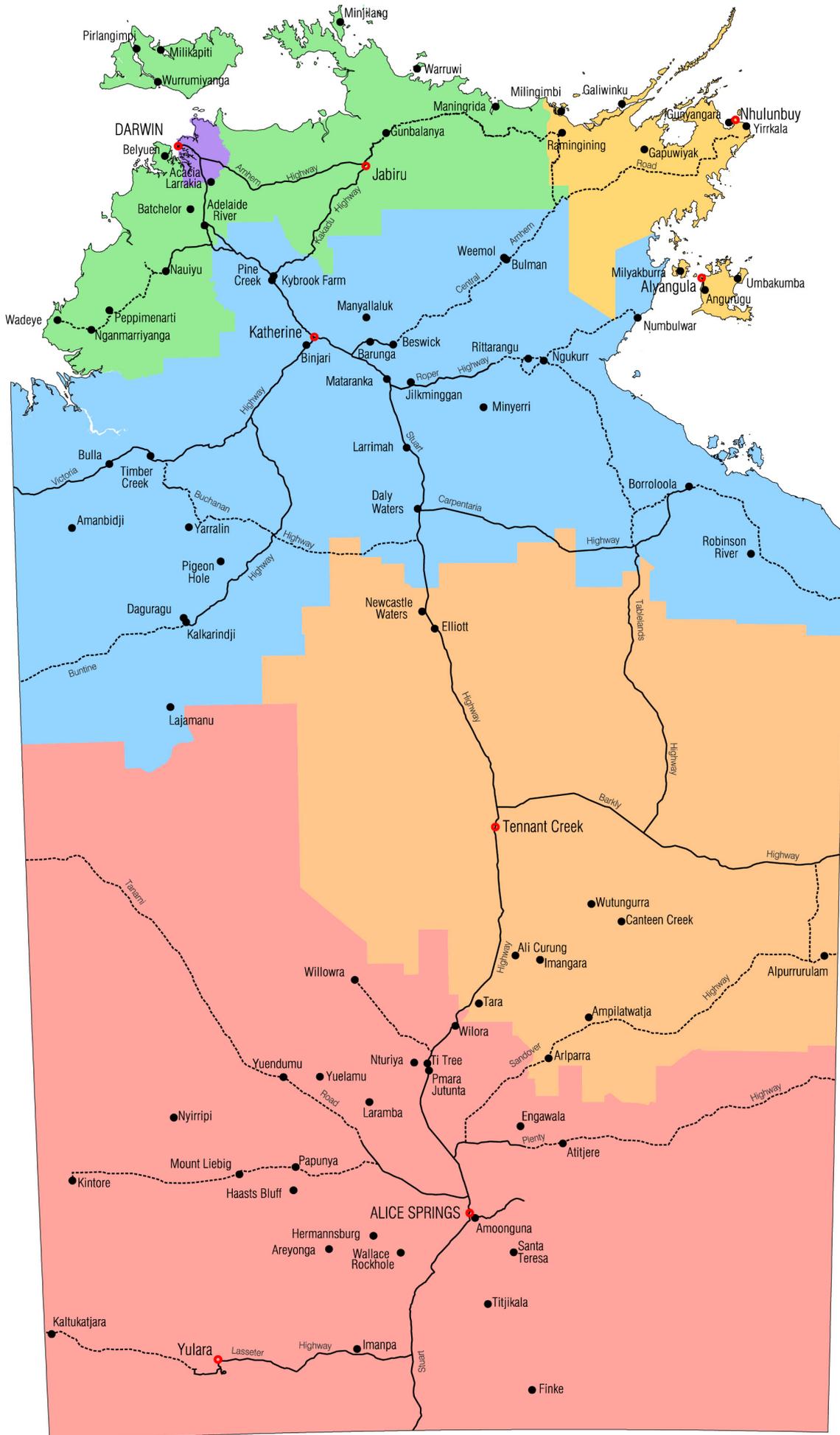
Regional overview

The following is an overview of key regional initiatives and programs in the 2021 Budget. It complements the extensive information contained in the other budget papers by presenting budget details of particular relevance to the communities in each of the Territory's six regions (refer to the map on the opposite page).



Map legend

Top End	
Greater Darwin	
East Arnhem	
Big Rivers	
Barkly	
Central Australia	



National Aboriginal Art Gallery

The 2021 Budget commits \$46.9 million to developing a National Aboriginal Art Gallery at the Anzac Hill Precinct in Alice Springs.

The gallery will be the centrepiece of the Territory Arts Trail and be dedicated to the display, celebration and interpretation of Aboriginal art.

The project aims to change the way that Aboriginal culture is understood and experienced, placing our First Nations peoples and their culture at the very centre of Mparntwe / Alice Springs and building an institution that is a model of how Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australia can build a shared future together, including truth telling and healing.

The design is due for completion by the end of 2021, followed by construction soon after.

National Indigenous Cultural Centre

The National Indigenous Cultural Centre in Alice Springs will be a dynamic and living centre that celebrates the historical and ongoing contribution of Aboriginal culture.

The 2021 Budget includes \$19.4 million for the centre, with preparation of a business case to inform project planning currently underway.

Central Australia

Central Australia is the Territory's largest region, covering 42% of the total land area. The region includes small communities separated by long distances and is home to about 39,400 people, of whom about 43% are Aboriginal. Alice Springs, Australia's inland capital, is the main service centre, with a population of about 26,400 people. Around 35% of the region's population are aged 24 years or under and about 8% are aged 65 years or older.

Major industries include tourism, mining, oil and gas exploration, and construction. Tourism is an important contributor to economic activity with many natural attractions in the region, including Kata Tjuta, Kings Canyon, Uluru and West MacDonnell Ranges, attracting domestic and international visitors.

Land release

The Territory Government is providing more land for homes in Alice Springs, including \$8.3 million for release of another stage of Kilgariff Estate.

A further \$16.1 million has been set aside for development of industrial land in Alice Springs, including potential releases in Arumbera and Brewer Estate.

Tanami Road

The Tanami Road project is a \$200 million, 10-year initiative to upgrade and seal key sections of the road, jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Territory governments under the Roads of Strategic Importance program.

The Tanami Road stretches for more than 1,000 kilometres between Alice Springs and Halls Creek in Western Australia. Sealing the Tanami Road from Alice Springs to Yuendumu commenced in November of 2020 and is due to be completed by late 2021.

The project will deliver significant economic benefits to the region, particularly in the mining, pastoral and tourism industries, and increase remote community access to essential services.

Outback Way

The Outback Way is a series of roads and unsealed tracks connecting Winton in Queensland to Laverton in Western Australia via Central Australia, passing through Alice Springs. The route, which includes the Plenty Highway, totals 2,800 kilometre and is a popular 4WD road trip experience.

Construction on the Plenty Highway and Tjukururu Road commenced in 2015. Several road upgrades have been completed to date, with five further packages worth \$23.3 million expected to be completed by the end of 2021.

This will contribute to fully sealing the route from Western Australia to Queensland, facilitating the growth of the region's mining, pastoral and tourism industries in line with the Outback Way Investment Strategy.

Community safety and heat mitigation

The Territory Government has invested \$15 million in the Alice Springs CBD with initiatives underway to enhance amenities, improve safety, reduce radiant heat and attract people and business back to the CBD.

Ambulatory care centre

The Commonwealth has committed \$25.7 million for an ambulatory care centre at Alice Springs Hospital. The centre will deliver a broad range of services including renal dialysis, oncology, obstetrics and gynaecology clinical services and midwifery, to meet growing demand in the region.

Alice Springs hospital carpark

The 2021 Budget invests \$11.3 million for a multistorey carpark at Alice Springs Hospital providing 250 more carparks for staff and the public. Construction is underway and due to be complete by December 2021.

Megafauna Central

Megafauna Central is a museum that displays and promotes the unique fossil discoveries made at the Alcoota Scientific Reserve, an exceptionally rich fossil site 190 kilometres north-east of Alice Springs. The museum includes exhibits, a discovery centre, retail area, research facilities and storage for the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory's palaeontological collection. As part of the 2021 Budget, an additional \$0.4 million per annum will support the continued operation of the facility.

Hermannsburg Historic Precinct

Stage 1 restoration of the Hermannsburg Historic Precinct has been completed, including refurbishment of nine buildings within the heritage site, landscaping upgrades and re-establishment of a small section of the market garden that existed in the late 1800s.

Stage 2, funded by a \$1.6 million Commonwealth grant, is expected to commence in 2021-22.



Alice Springs hospital staff accommodation

This project will deliver modern and high quality staff accommodation located close to the hospital to assist with staff retention.

The facility, which is within a short walking distance from the Alice Springs Hospital, will include 40 x 1 bedroom units, 20 x 2 bedrooms units and 10 x 3 bedroom units, off-street parking, swimming pool and gymnasium, rooftop common area and retail or other commercial space adjacent to Todd Street.

The facility will be leased by government at an expected cost of \$29 million over 15 years. Construction is currently in progress, supporting 120 construction jobs and 125 indirect jobs with at least 15% Aboriginal participation. Construction is expected to be complete in late 2021.

Major works overview

	Capital works
	\$000
Transport	96 020
Housing and community amenities	12 375
Recreation, culture and religion	83 145
Economic affairs	16 150
Health	43 710
Public order and safety	3 711
Environmental protection	10 000
Total Central Australia	265 111

Centre Run air service

The 2021 Budget provides additional funding of \$2.4 million in 2020-21 to extend operations of the Centre Run air service, which provides a scheduled air service for Katherine and Tennant Creek to Darwin.

Since establishment in 2015, it has carried over 42,000 passengers, supporting connectivity and delivery of health, education and other key services to Tennant Creek. It has been an enabler for tourism, employment and business growth opportunities.

Major works overview

	Capital works \$000
Transport	172 679
Housing and community amenities	5 569
Recreation, culture and religion	11 811
Health	3 175
Public order and safety	3 200
Education	1 541
Social protection	3 546
Total Barkly	201 520

Barkly

Barkly is the Territory's third largest region and extends along the Stuart Highway from Tara to Newcastle Waters and east across the Barkly Tableland to Queensland. The region encompasses small communities separated by long distances and is home to around 6,100 people, of whom about 71% are Aboriginal. Tennant Creek is the main regional centre with a population of about 3,300 people. A high proportion of people living in the region are young, with about 40% aged 24 years and under, and about 7% aged 65 or older.

Major industries include government services, agriculture, construction, mining and onshore gas exploration. The Barkly and Tennant Creek pastoral district accounts for a substantial proportion of the Territory's total cattle industry. The Northern Gas Pipeline, connecting the Territory to the eastern gas market, is expected to stimulate economic activity in the Barkly region over the next few years. Government is also investing to develop Tennant Creek as a mining and mineral services centre and preliminary investigations have commenced to understand the development requirements for a multimodal and agribusiness hub in Tennant Creek.

Barkly Regional Deal

The Barkly Regional Deal, signed on 13 April 2019, is a 10-year, \$78.4 million commitment, which includes \$45.4 million from the Commonwealth, \$30 million from the Territory Government and \$3 million from Barkly Regional Council. It aims to improve the productivity and liveability of the Barkly region by stimulating economic growth, improving social outcomes and supporting local Aboriginal leadership. To date, initiatives have progressed as follows:

- a site has been selected for the new Tennant Creek Visitor Park and design is underway. Funding of \$9.5 million has been committed to construct and operate the park, which will provide a range of safe accommodation options for transitional and seasonal visitors from outlying communities



- the design process for the \$7.6 million investment in youth-focused recreational infrastructure at key sites across the Barkly has commenced. The works will include walking and cycling paths in Tennant Creek, youth centres in Ali Curung and Tennant Creek and a skate park in Alpururulam
- design of the \$2.2 million Barkly Business Hub has commenced. The hub will be a 'one-stop-shop' to facilitate business and innovation, including supporting local businesses and local skills development, and is scheduled for completion in October 2021
- following an initial infrastructure commitment of \$3.6 million in 2019, the 2021 Budget includes ongoing funding of \$2 million per annum for the operation of the Barkly Youth Work Camp. Construction of the facility is expected to be completed in November 2021, with operations to commence in December 2021. The facility will serve as an alternative to detention for young people in the region, and aims to reduce reoffending through engagement in education, vocational training and health and wellbeing services
- \$1 million resealing and line marking works at Alpururulam (Lake Nash) airstrip are complete, enabling aircraft to land safely and supporting the delivery of essential goods and services.

Housing investment

Since September 2016, the Territory Government has delivered 40 new homes and 85 living spaces in the Barkly region under the remote housing investment package.

Barkly Highway upgrades

The 2021 Budget allocates \$20.2 million for upgrades to the Barkly Highway, recognising its regional and national significance as a freight route.

The project, funded as part of the Commonwealth's Roads of Strategic Importance initiative, includes sealing, strengthening, widening works and road safety improvements to key sections of the road. The surrounding regional communities will benefit from improved road safety, freight efficiency and economic productivity.

Rehabilitation facility

A new purpose-built drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility will be delivered in 2021-22 for the Barkly Region Alcohol and Drug Abuse Advisory Group (BRADAAG). A site has been selected and detailed design is underway. The \$5 million facility will provide comprehensive health care, rehabilitation, transitional residential housing and integration services to local clients. Construction is due to commence in mid-2021 with completion expected in early 2022.

Nyinkka Nyunyu Art and Culture Centre

Design work has commenced for an \$8 million upgrade to the Nyinkka Nyunyu Art and Culture Centre in Tennant Creek. The project will enhance the entrance area, gallery, artist studios, and retail and office spaces, and support 44 local jobs. The upgrades are part of the \$30 million Arts Trail Regional Gallery Extension program.

Clontarf and Stars Academy

A new \$2 million facility for the Clontarf and Stars Academy at Tennant Creek High School aims to improve education, life skills and employment prospects of young Aboriginal men and women by providing mentorship, support and a range of activities, as well as assisting graduates to find employment.

Construction commenced in January 2021 with completion due in late 2021.

Tennant Creek streetscape

A \$3 million streetscaping project is being delivered in partnership with the Barkly Regional Council to revitalise and improve visitor infrastructure in Tennant Creek.

Works include shading and cooling, wayfinding, lighting and landscaping, and are expected to commence in 2021-22.

Defence

The 2020 Defence Strategic Update and the 2020 Force Structure Plan reinforce the significance of the Territory to national security, with over \$8 billion to be invested in the Territory over the next decade.

Major projects over the budget and forward estimates period include \$1.1 billion for works at RAAF Base Tindal.

Major works overview

	Capital works
	\$000
Transport	140 063
Housing and community amenities	3 498
Recreation, culture, religion	5 030
Economic affairs	32 864
Health	936
Public order and safety	3 709
Environmental protection	10 100
Total Big Rivers	196 201

Big Rivers

Big Rivers is the Territory's second largest region and extends from the Ord Bonaparte area in the west to the Gulf of Carpentaria in the east. The region is home to about 20,900 people, of whom about 57% are Aboriginal. The town of Katherine is the main centre with a population of about 10,700 people. About 39% of the region's population is aged 24 years and under, and about 7% is aged 65 years and over.

The town of Katherine provides a natural transport crossroad connecting Darwin and Alice Springs with Western Australia and Queensland. Recognising this strategic importance has enabled Katherine to develop as a major regional logistics and agribusiness hub.

Major industries include tourism, horticulture, pastoral, mining and defence. The region has a significant defence presence, including the Royal Australian Air Force's (RAAF) Base Tindal, Bradshaw Field Training Area and Delamere Air Weapons Range. Key tourist attractions include Nitmiluk Gorge, Leliyn (Edith Falls), Mataranka, and recreational fishing in the big rivers of the region. Mining activity in the region includes gold and other minerals around Pine Creek and zinc/lead around McArthur River, south west of Borroloola.

Land release

The 2021 Budget invests \$10.1 million in the Katherine East neighbourhood area, adjacent to the Katherine Research Farm. The project supports development of a centre with a diverse mix of medium-density housing with commercial, retail and public open space for economic and social activity and amenity. The project will also have dense green shade and landscaping, and carparking.



Logistics and Agribusiness Hub

The Katherine Logistics and Agribusiness Hub is well advanced in planning and an agreement has been reached with the owners of Manbulloo Station for the land acquisition to progress the industrial precinct. The Territory Government has committed \$28.9 million for this project.

Carpentaria Highway upgrades

The 2021 Budget includes Commonwealth and Territory funding of \$150 million to continue improving the Carpentaria Highway to accommodate growing traffic and improve safety. The upgrades will improve access to jobs, essential services and freight links in the Barkly and Big Rivers regions.

The project will also support development of the Beetaloo Basin. Design works are underway for the first 50 kilometre section of the road, with the first stage of major works to commence in late 2021.

The long-term goal is to seal the road from the Victoria Highway to the Western Australian border.

Buntine Highway upgrades

The 2021 Budget provides Commonwealth and Territory funding of \$53 million to continue upgrades to the Buntine Highway, including sealing and widening key sections to improve access during the wet season.

The upgrades support the region's beef, cattle, tourism and mining industries, providing jobs and economic development opportunities for local communities.

Katherine Showgrounds upgrades

The Katherine Showgrounds hosts a number of large-scale community events including the Katherine Show and the Katherine Races, and is the home ground for the Big Rivers Football League.

The 2021 Budget invests \$2.2 million to improve infrastructure at the showgrounds, including roads, rodeo and campdraft infrastructure, and enhanced amenities.

Katherine Sportsgrounds upgrades

The 2021 Budget provides \$4.9 million to Katherine Town Council to redevelop the Katherine Sportsgrounds. Design work is complete and upgrades are progressing and expected to be completed by December 2021.

Works include demolishing the old pavilion, new turf, a higher capacity pavilion, better carpark access, and a safer and easy-to-maintain oval.

Housing investment

Since September 2016, the Territory government has built 147 new homes and 120 additional living spaces in remote housing in the region under the remote housing investment package.

Other infrastructure highlights

The 2021 Budget also invests in infrastructure in the region, including:

- \$3.9 million for headworks infrastructure and industrial land in Kalkarindji
- \$4.5 million for the Katherine art gallery extensions
- \$3.7 million Ngukurr Police Complex
- \$1.9 million for Building Better Schools in Bulla Camp, Clyde Fenton, Pigeon Hole, Ngukurr, Numbulwar, Timber Creek, Wugularr and Yarralin
- \$0.9 million for upgrades to the Elsey and Mataranka thermal pools, and a new information bay at Mataranka
- \$0.5 million for new walking trails at Nitmiluk National Park linking with mountain bike trails
- \$0.3 million for campgrounds, entrances and a lookout at Judbarra National Park
- \$0.2 million to upgrade Big Horse boat ramp.

Kalkarindji Child and Family Centre

The 2021 Budget provides \$0.6 million per annum for the Kalkarindji Child and Family Centre, which opened in September 2020 and coordinates the delivery of support services to children, young people and families.

Arts Trail investment

The Territory Government has committed \$7.5 million to upgrade and expand the world-renowned Buku-Larrnggay Mulka centre at Yirrkala and to support the construction of a new building for Gapuwiyak Culture and Arts through a partnership with the Commonwealth. Design works will be completed in 2021, with construction expected to begin in mid-2022.

The investment is part of the Territory Government's \$30 million Arts Trail Regional Gallery Extension program.

Gapuwiyak Child and Family Centre

The year ahead will see the establishment of a Child and Family Centre in Gapuwiyak through a community co-design process and a Territory investment of \$4 million over five years.

In addition, the Territory and Commonwealth governments are co-investing \$2.5 million in a new Yolju led youth development model in the Galiwin'ku, Gapuwiyak, Ramingining and Milingimbi regions.

East Arnhem

The East Arnhem region is situated in the far north-eastern corner of the Territory and covers East Arnhem Land, Groote Eylandt and Elcho Island. Due to limited road access, travel and freight is mainly by air or sea.

The East Arnhem region is home to about 14,600 people, of whom around 73% are Aboriginal, with major population centres in Nhulunbuy and Alyangula. The population is relatively young and dispersed, with about 44% aged 24 years and under and about 4% aged 65 years and over.

Major industries in the East Arnhem region include mining, buffalo farming, tourism, aquaculture and fishing. Mining is the main contributor to economic activity in the region, with the production of manganese at the GEMCO mine at Groote Eylandt and bauxite at the Rio Tinto and Gulkula mines on the Gove Peninsula. Traditional Aboriginal cultural experiences, Aboriginal art, and the remote and natural wilderness attract tourists to the region, providing economic opportunities and employment activity.

Gove Port investment

Design work is progressing for the \$8 million joint Territory Government, Developing East Arnhem Limited (DEAL) and Commonwealth Government investment in the Gove Port Tourism Precinct. The upgrades are part of a larger master plan to improve commercial wharf and landside facilities at the port to attract new and diversified industry including fisheries and aquaculture, marine services and larger tourism vessels.

The Territory Government is also progressing works for a jetty and associated facilities to support tourism opportunities, with DEAL and the Gumatj Corporation supported through the National Indigenous Australians Agency.

Arnhem Land and Groote Eylandt telecommunications

The Territory Government, the Anindilyakwa Land Council, GEMCO and Telstra have jointly committed \$7.5 million to upgrade the optic fibre network to Groote Eylandt, with works due for completion in late 2021. In addition, Telstra, DEAL and the Territory and Commonwealth governments have jointly committed \$8 million to upgrade the Arnhem optic fibre network, which services communities from Jabiru to Nhulunbuy. These optic fibre upgrades will alleviate network congestion and provide super-fast broadband to the region that will also support the Arnhem Space Centre on the Gove Peninsula. Works are expected to be completed by late 2022.

Housing investment

Since September 2016, the Territory Government has built 35 new homes, 47 living spaces, 50 subdivision lots and 103 infill lots in the East Arnhem region under the remote housing investment package. Long-term housing contracts have been awarded to Yolju and Anindilyakwa construction firms to deliver housing, jobs and apprenticeships.

Central Arnhem Road upgrade

The Commonwealth and Territory governments are investing \$225 million, including \$78.1 million in 2021-22, to upgrade the Central Arnhem Road from the Stuart Highway to Nhulunbuy, which will involve sealing, widening and flood-immunity improvements to priority sections of the route.

Aged care

The Commonwealth has committed \$20 million for a residential aged care centre in Nhulunbuy. The facility will include 32 ensuite rooms and a palliative unit and also provide a home-based care option so people can receive the support they need in their own homes. Construction is expected to be completed in 2021.

Gove District Hospital

Works have been completed at the Gove District Hospital to upgrade the medical imaging department and install a new CT scanner, which will provide a significant capability enhancement for the hospital and improve access to these services for residents in the region. Overall, \$11.3 million of works are scheduled in for Gove District Hospital in 2021-22, including fire remediation works and continuing imaging department upgrades.

Arnhem Space Centre

The Arnhem Space Centre is a commercial launch facility being developed by Equatorial Launch Australia, in partnership with the Gumatj Corporation, near Nhulunbuy. The site is uniquely positioned to offer equatorial launch as its proximity to the equator, coastline and sparse population makes it ideal to support safe and efficient space launches. The establishment of this spaceport will open up supply chain, training and workforce development opportunities in the region, and help attract other space investment.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has a contract with Equatorial Launch Australia to launch a sounding rocket campaign from the Arnhem Space Centre in 2022.



Infrastructure highlights

The 2021 Budget also invests in infrastructure in the region, including:

- \$4.4 million for Galiwin'ku aerodrome
- \$2 million to continue homeland learning centre upgrades
- \$1.8 million to improve barge landings at Galiwin'ku and Ramingining
- \$1.8 million to improve the barge landing and goods handling facilities at Gapuwiyak
- \$1.4 million to complete a new permanent police post including a multifunction area at Angurugu
- \$0.9 million to upgrade school infrastructure at Baniyala Garrangali, Yirrkala, Angurugu and Nhulunbuy
- \$0.3 million for erosion protection works along Umbakumba Road
- \$0.2 million to upgrade Datjala work camp.

Major works overview

	Capital works
	\$000
Transport	85 657
Housing and community amenities	3 010
Recreation, culture and religion	7 500
Health	11 329
Public order and safety	1 436
Education	4 023
Total East Arnhem	112 955

Future of Jabiru and Kakadu

The Northern Territory Government has committed \$135.5 million to a strong and sustainable future for Jabiru as it transitions from a mining town to a tourism hub and service centre for Kakadu National Park and the West Arnhem region.

Funding has been committed for:

- maintaining essential infrastructure, such as local roads, electricity, water and sewerage
- a Bininj Resource Centre to support Aboriginal education and preserve culture
- a new power station for Jabiru
- new town infrastructure, including a Government Business Centre and retail centre
- securing air access for Jabiru
- improving education and health facilities
- guaranteeing government services at current levels for five years (education, health, police and fire and emergency services).

The Territory Government is also building a new \$12 million health clinic in Jabiru. Final design work is expected to be completed in June 2021 and construction is scheduled to start before the end of 2021.

Top End

The Top End region encompasses most of the Daly-Tiwi-West Arnhem region extending from Wadeye in the west to Maningrida in the east. About 17,900 people live in the region with major population centres in Wadeye and Jabiru. About 39% of the population is aged 24 years and under, and about 7% aged 65 years or older. Major industries include tourism, horticulture and forestry. Tourism is a significant contributor to economic activity in the region, with world-renowned attractions such as Litchfield and Kakadu national parks, the Daly River for recreational fishing and camping, and Tiwi Islands for arts and textiles.

Middle Arm sustainable development precinct

The Territory Government is transforming Middle Arm, which houses the Santos Darwin LNG and the Ichthys LNG processing facilities, into a master-planned industrial precinct.

Baseline studies are being progressed to support planning and to inform the future development potential of the 600 hectare site. Construction is also underway at Middle Arm on stage 1 of Kittyhawk Estate, with three strategic investment lots to be released for sale in 2021.

Adelaide River to Wadeye Corridor – Port Keats Road

Works commenced in August 2020 to upgrade a high priority section of Port Keats Road from the Daly River Bridge Crossing near the community of Nauiyu to Wadeye. Port Keats Road is on the Roads of Strategic Importance Adelaide River to Wadeye corridor. The 2021 Budget includes \$59.6 million for the project, with \$46.8 million from the Commonwealth.

The project involves construction works on Port Keats Road around the point it crosses Saddle Rail Creek, the section most vulnerable to flooding. This will seal an 11.7 kilometre section of the road and construct a 45 metre bridge over Saddle Rail Creek, several floodway sections and culvert crossings.

The project will deliver significant benefits for the region, including improved access to essential services such as education and health, improved flood immunity, better safety outcomes, and more efficient freight routes, helping lower the cost of goods and services and providing stronger support for industry, business and private investment.

Tiwi Islands road upgrades

The 2021 Budget allocates \$61.1 million in 2021-22 to upgrade and seal access roads on the Tiwi Islands. The improvements will provide all-weather access to Tiwi College on Melville Island, and provide employment opportunities, particularly those associated with the export of plantation timber. The Commonwealth has committed \$60 million to the \$75 million project, which commenced in mid-2021 and is due for completion in mid-2025.

Wadeye Government Business Centre

The Territory Government is working with the Kardu Alliance members on developing the Government Business Centre in Wadeye to ensure an increased permanent and reliable government presence in the region. This purpose-built facility will be Aboriginal-owned and leased to government service providers.

Housing investment

Since September 2016, the Territory Government has built 135 new homes, 148 living spaces, 46 subdivision lots and 94 infill lots in the Top End region under the remote housing investment package.

Mandorah marine facilities

The Territory Government is investing \$50 million to replace the Mandorah jetty and marine facilities to improve safety and access for users and unlock development and tourism in the area.

Design has been completed, and will include a breakwater structure/rock groyne, a gangway and floating pontoon. There will also be a boat ramp, fishing facility from landside, and infrastructure onshore featuring a carpark and trailer parking.

The construction tender for the project is expected to be released in mid-2021, with construction completed by 2024.

New police complex at Maningrida

The 2021 Budget includes \$15.8 million for construction of the new police complex in Maningrida, which is scheduled to commence in late 2021.

The complex will accommodate more police officers in Maningrida, and enable more proactive policing in the district to improve community safety.

Wadeye and Wurrumiyanga child and family centres

Two new centres will be delivered in Wadeye and Wurrumiyanga, with Thamarrurr Development Corporation signing a five-year service contract with the Territory Government to deliver the Da Ngimalmin Child and Family Centre in Wadeye.

The centres will receive \$0.6 million per annum to deliver support services to children, young people and their families.

Major works overview

	Capital works
	\$'000
Transport	265 836
Recreation, culture and religion	5 696
Economic affairs	74 638
Public order and safety	16 680
General public services	1 000
Total Top End	363 851



Humpty Doo

Barramundi expansion

In late 2020, the Commonwealth's Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF) provided a \$24.2 million loan to Humpty Doo Barramundi Pty Ltd to further expand its operations in the Territory.

The expansion includes new ponds, improvements to existing facilities, and the construction of a hatchery at Channel Island, which will be the first purpose-built commercial barramundi hatchery in the Territory and provide juvenile fish supply security to the region.

Construction, which began in late 2020, is expected to create 111 jobs, with a further 160 jobs to be created from increased operations.

Major works overview

	Capital works
	\$000
Transport	111 143
Housing and community amenities	67 838
Recreation, culture and religion	52 990
Economic affairs	32 381
Health	52 066
Public order and safety	23 613
Environmental protection	5 400
Education	3 652
Social protection	2 386
General public services	1 169
Total Greater Darwin	352 638

Greater Darwin

The Greater Darwin region includes the cities of Darwin and Palmerston, the Litchfield Shire, East Arm and Robertson Barracks. The region is home to about 147,200 people, around 60% of the Territory's population. Greater Darwin has the lowest proportion of young people among the regions, with about 32% aged 24 years and under, and the highest proportion of population aged 65 years and over, at about 9%.

Darwin is the Territory's capital city and is the main population and administrative centre. Major industries include construction, defence, retail, tourism, rental hiring and real estate services, public administration and safety, and health care. Darwin is the key gateway to the Territory's regional centres and tourist attractions, and is an important strategic centre in the broader region to the north for trade and defence.

Major industries in Palmerston and the Litchfield Shire include construction, aquaculture, horticulture, cattle and crocodile farming, defence, and liquefied natural gas and helium production. The Robertson Barracks army base, located near Palmerston, hosts the ongoing rotations of US Marines in the Territory each year. The development of East Arm, including the Marine Industry Park and the Darwin ship lift facility, will support the defence, logistics and freight sectors and aid future oil and gas activity in the Territory.

Civic and State Square revitalisation

The 2021 Budget provides \$118 million over five years (\$30 million in 2021-22) to redevelop Civic and State Square to become a gateway for visitors and physically connect the harbour and the city.

Features will include a centrally located 'heart' with shaded areas, tropical avenues, gardens and expansive lawns suitable for hosting events, as well as a water park. The development is in addition to the \$44.5 million allocated in 2021-22 for the State Square Art Gallery. The new art gallery will provide a space for the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory to showcase art from the Territory's extensive collection, and host prestigious Australian and international exhibitions.

The development is expected to enhance a range of economic outcomes in the CBD, including retail trade as a result of improved access and walkability, and enhanced private investment in the CBD.

CDU city campus

The Darwin City Deal includes the new \$225 million Education and Community Precinct, including a new Charles Darwin University campus. The precinct, located on the corner of Cavenagh Street and Garramilla Boulevard, will bring hundreds of new staff and thousands of students into the Darwin CBD and support a substantial number of jobs during construction. Construction has commenced and is expected to be completed by 2024.

Holtze and Kowandi

The NT Planning Commission has commenced the process of planning for the future development of new suburbs in Holtze and Kowandi. Baseline investigations into power, water, sewer, roads and other infrastructure networks are currently underway, and draft concept plans are under development to release Holtze and Kowandi as the next affordable residential housing development for Greater Darwin. The releases will provide for over 5,000 dwellings on an as-needed basis to sustainably manage supply.

Berrimah Road overpass

In April 2021, the Territory and Commonwealth governments released a tender for a new overpass at the Tiger Brennan Drive and Berrimah Road intersection. The \$61.5 million project will be jointly funded by the Territory and Commonwealth to improve road safety outcomes at the intersection, which is used by 20,000 vehicles each day.

Frances Bay Mooring Basin – lock replacement

The 2021 Budget supports the commercial fishing industry with \$20 million to replace the lock gates at the Frances Bay Mooring Basin.

Urban housing

The Territory Government made an election commitment to redevelop the Davoren Circuit and Bonson Terrace public housing complex in Moulden. The 35-year-old complex is beyond its economic life and is a source of antisocial behaviour. All tenants will be rehoused by May 2021.

Holtze Youth Detention Centre

When built, the Holtze Youth Detention Centre will replace the existing Don Dale Youth Detention Centre. The new facility will be built on an undeveloped and densely-vegetated site in Holtze, near health and emergency services. Construction has commenced and will create approximately 350 local jobs, including 50 Aboriginal employment opportunities and 22 apprentices, and is expected to finish mid-2022.

Palmerston Youth Skills Centre

As a part of the Breaking the Cycle of Youth Crime in Palmerston strategy, the Territory Government will establish the Palmerston Youth Skills Centre, focusing on intervention and diversion. The centre will be located in Yarrowonga and is scheduled to open in mid-2021.

Palmerston Youth Festival

As part of the Territory Government's Breaking the Cycle of Crime initiative, the Territory Government will provide \$0.3 million each year for three years for the City of Palmerston Council to hold a yearly youth festival over a week during the mid-year school holiday period. The inaugural youth festival was held from 13–20 July, 2019 and was well received.

The 2020 festival was postponed due to COVID-19, however planning for the 2021 festival is underway.



Acknowledgements

The photos in this publication are reproduced with the kind permission of:
Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet; Department of Education;
Department of Health; Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade;
Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities; and Rikki Hudson.