Budget Overview

Budget at a Glance

Significant Territory Government 2013-14 Projects

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Project | $M |
| Marine Supply Base | 41 |
| Royal Darwin Hospital upgrades | 33 |
| Alice Springs Hospital upgrades | 30 |
| Headworks for land release | 29 |
| Police facilities in Alice Springs | 11 |
| Mandatory Rehabilitation centres | 10 |

Major Capital Works Projects by Functional Category

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | $M |
| Roads and transport | 224 |
| Housing and related works | 211 |
| Health | 148 |
| Economic and community infrastructure | 132 |
| Community safety | 65 |
| Education | 34 |
| Lifestyle and environment | 21 |
| Other | 4 |
| Total Budget sector | 840 |

The 2013‑14 Budget delivers a range of measures targeting elimination of the Territory’s overall fiscal imbalance by 2017-18.

The 2013-14 Budget also builds on the Government’s key priorities of attracting investment in mineral resources, increasing tourist visitation and expanding the Territory’s primary industries, thereby creating jobs and making the Territory a more diverse place to work.

Fiscal Position

The Government has targeted the elimination of the fiscal imbalance in order to stabilise the Territory’s debt burden by 2017‑18. This is to be achieved through a number of significant fiscal repair measures, including: savings measures across all government agencies; a range of increases in own-source revenues, including agency fees and charges; and addressing the commercial sustainability of the Power and Water Corporation. However, reducing goods and services tax (GST) revenues has made reaching a fiscal balance more difficult.

Economic Outlook

Economic growth in the Territory is forecast to continue strengthening to 2014‑15, peaking at 7 per cent, up from 5 per cent in 2013‑14 and 4.6 per cent in 2012‑13. Growth over this period is expected to be underpinned by an acceleration of construction activity related to a number of mining-related projects. The following table shows the forecast growth in other key economic indicators.

Key Economic Indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |
|  | % | % | % | % | % |
| Gross state product1 | 4.6 | 5.0 | 7.0 | 4.5 | 3.9 |
| Employment | 2.0 | 3.0 | 4.5 | 1.5 | 0.5 |
| Population2 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 1.0 |
| Darwin CPI3 | 2.04 | 3.9 | 3.5 | 3.0 | 2.5 |

1 Year ended June, year‑on‑year percentage change, inflation adjusted.

2 As at December, annual percentage change.

3 As at December, year‑on‑year percentage change.

4 Actual Australian of Bureau Statistics (ABS) data.

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance; ABS Cat. Nos 5220.0, 6202.0, 3101.0, 6401.0

Economic Development

The 2013‑14 Budget supports Territory businesses to maximise economic opportunities and includes:

* an additional $8 million for tourism, providing a total of $15 million to extend the Territory’s international marketing activities; and
* an additional $9.1 million for the Department of Mines and Energy to improve monitoring and regulation activities.

Affordable Housing and Land Release

The Government aims to increase housing supply and ease the cost of housing through the Real Housing for Growth Plan. The Government will partner with private developers to facilitate the construction of 2000 affordable homes over the next four years.

The 2013‑14 Budget includes $3.8 million, increasing to $9.9 million ongoing from 2015-16, to support the headlease rental initiative of the Real Housing for Growth Plan, to provide affordable rental properties for eligible low-income earners and frontline Territory Government employees.

The 2013‑14 Budget also provides an additional $24.3 million to support accelerated land release at Palmerston East, and $4.3 million to service the development of the new Alice Springs suburb Kilgariff.

The Territory Budget includes provision for the new HomeBuild Access loans to increase home ownership opportunities for Territorians. Initiatives include a low deposit loan, off-the-plan deposit loan, subsidised interest rate loan and a fee assistance loan.

Community Safety

Serving and Protecting Territorians

The 2013‑14 Budget provides additional frontline police officers across the Territory and increases resources to improve community safety, including:

* $22.5 million for the recruitment of an additional 120 police, including 20 officers in Alice Springs;
* $11.35 million for the repairs and maintenance of police, fire and emergency facilities; and
* $10.9 million to expand police facilities in Alice Springs.

Mandatory Rehabilitation

The 2013‑14 Budget provides $35 million for the Government’s Mandatory Rehabilitation initiative for problem drinkers, which will deliver effective treatment for those drinkers who have been taken into protective custody at least three times in a two-month period.

Other Key 2013‑14 Initiatives

Health and Wellbeing – $173 million to improve health infrastructure.

Lifestyle – boosting sporting and recreational opportunities, arts and culture, protecting the environment and encouraging sustainable use of resources, including $8.2 million for major events.

Education – improving school infrastructure and providing families with financial and educational assistance, including $6.6 million for Back to School vouchers and investing in re-skilling the workforce to provide employment opportunities.

Operating Expenses

Funding to key service delivery agencies in 2013-14 includes:

* $1.3 billion for Health;
* $847 million for Education and Children’s Services;
* $394 million for Police, Fire and Emergency Services;
* $275 million for Housing;
* $169 million for Children and Families;
* $162 million for Correctional Services; and
* $131 million for Regional Development and Women’s Policy.

Regional Development

The 2013-14 Budget initiatives include:

* $30 million regional roads program;
* addressing skilled workforce shortages and generating employment opportunities in remote areas, including the Indigenous Workforce Participation Program, Apprenticeship and Traineeship Support Package and the Marine Ranger Program; and
* $188.6 million under the 10‑year Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory National Partnership Agreement to improve Indigenous outcomes.

Fiscal Outlook

Intergovernmental Financial Arrangements

Intergovernmental financial arrangements continue to be of critical importance to the Northern Territory Budget.

In the general government sector, the major source of revenue to the Territory remains the GST, representing about 58 per cent of the Territory’s total revenue. GST revenue to the Territory in 2013-14 is now expected to be lower than in 2012‑13.

Total Revenue 2013-14

|  | $M |
| --- | --- |
| Commonwealth revenue | 3 784 |
| GST | 2 805 |
| Specific Purpose Payments |  201 |
| National Partnership payments |  462 |
| Other Commonwealth revenue |  386 |
| Own-source revenue | 1 019 |
| Total revenue | 4 803 |

Overall, GST revenue is now significantly lower by over $500 million over the forward estimates due to the GST Revenue Sharing Relativities 2013 Update.

GST Projections



Source: Department of Treasury and Finance

Fiscal Outlook

The constrained revenues and higher spending levels evident in prior years have put significant pressure on the Territory’s fiscal position, with debt levels on the rise. The Government has adopted as its immediate fiscal objective, the stabilisation of the Territory’s debt burden by targeting the elimination of the overall fiscal deficit by 2017-18.

With a focus on reversing the fiscal deterioration, the fiscal outlook in the 2013‑14 Budget includes:

* the fiscal balance at the non financial public sector improving over the forward estimates with a $176 million deficit projected by the end of 2016-17;
* the general government sector operating balance trending to improvement in all years from 2013-14 but remaining in a slight deficit position of $47 million by 2016‑17; and
* the net debt to revenue ratio for the non financial public sector levelling out over the forward estimates as a result of reducing fiscal balance deficits.

The largest influence on the Territory being able to meet its fiscal objectives has been the reduction in the Territory’s largest revenue source, the GST. The Territory’s relative share of GST revenue decreased from 5.7 per cent in 2012-13 to 5.4 per cent in 2013-14, following the Commonwealth Grants Commission’s February 2013 Update. This has resulted in projected revenue reductions of $117 million in 2013‑14 and an estimated $135 million on average per annum ongoing. In absolute terms in 2013‑14, it is now estimated that the Territory will receive $2805 million in GST revenue, which represents a $16 million decline from the 2012-13 GST revenue of $2821 million.

Key Fiscal Indicators

|  | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Net operating balance – GGS ($M) | - 88 | - 230 | - 171 | - 62 | - 47 |
| Fiscal balance – NFPS ($M) | - 682 | - 1 185 | - 351 | - 236 | - 176 |
| Net debt – NFPS ($M) | 3 278 | 4 417 | 4 730 | 4 944 | 5 113 |
| Net debt to revenue – NFPS (%) |  61 |  80 |  85 |  85 |  86 |

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance

Non Financial Public Sector – Fiscal Balance



Source: Department of Treasury and Finance

Infrastructure

Total infrastructure payments in 2013-14 are estimated to be $1.2 billion, including $802 million for capital projects and $382 million for repairs and maintenance.

Total infrastructure payments are expected to decrease over the forward estimates as private sector investment associated with major projects steps up.

The Budget sector capital works program in 2013-14 is $840 million with 70 per cent dedicated to housing, roads and transport, and health.

Revenue

Territory revenue is expected to be $4.8 billion in the general government sector in 2013-14. This comprises around 58 per cent GST revenue, 20 per cent tied Commonwealth funding and 22 per cent Territory own-source revenue.

The projected revenue for 2013-14 from Territory own-source revenue totals $598.6 billion as shown below.



Source: Department of Treasury and Finance

Expenses

In 2013-14, Territory expenses for the general government sector are estimated to be $5 billion, with total expenses including capital investment of $5.7 billion. The key functions of health, education, and public order and safety comprise 58 per cent of total expenses.



Source: Department of Treasury and Finance

Government’s Fiscal Strategy

Key fiscal target: by 2017-18 the fiscal imbalance in the Territory’s non financial public sector is to be eliminated.

Assessment: fiscal balance trending to improvement over the forward estimates with a deficit of $176 million projected in 2016‑17.

Associated fiscal outcome: by 2016‑17 the Territory’s general government sector to achieve a net operating surplus.

Assessment: declining net operating balance deficit over the forward estimates with a deficit of $47 million projected in 2016-17.

Associated fiscal outcome: by 2016‑17, taxation effort in the Territory’s general government sector is more on par with the average effort of the states.

Assessment: policy changes of re-targeting home assistance stamp duty measures together with increases in motor vehicle registrations mean the Territory’s taxation effort is moving towards being on par with the state average.

Associated fiscal outcome: by 2016‑17, the Territory’s government owned corporation is moving towards commercial rates of return on capital employed.

Assessment: Power and Water Corporation is generating an improved return on assets over the forward estimates.

Associated fiscal outcome: by 2020, the Territory’s non financial public sector net debt as a percentage of revenue is approaching 60 per cent.

Assessment: net debt to revenue ratio levels out over the forward estimates and is projected to be 86 per cent by the end of 2016‑17.

Regional Highlights

Stronger Futures

The 2013-14 Budget provides $188.6 million under the $3.49 billion 10‑year Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory National Partnership Agreement to improve Indigenous outcomes:

* $40.3 million for Community Safety and Justice aiming to directly support continued improvements in community safety in remote Territory communities;
* $13.6 million for Child, Youth, Family and Community Wellbeing, which aims to improve the safety and wellbeing of children, youth and families;
* $9.8 million to support Territory‑wide health initiatives;
* $42.1 million for Schooling to address remote education disadvantages and improve Indigenous education outcomes;
* $4.2 million for Remote Engagement and Coordination to primarily support the Indigenous Interpreter Service;
* $6.9 million for the Alice Transformation Plan to improve life outcomes for Aboriginal residents and visitors in Alice Springs;
* $20.5 million for Municipal Essential Services; and
* $51.2 million to upgrade public housing in remote communities and to remove asbestos from communities.
* A further initiative in the area of tackling alcohol abuse is under negotiation between the Territory and Commonwealth governments.

The 2013-14 Budget provides support to the development of the Territory’s regions and the Territory economy while also addressing Indigenous disadvantage by improving services and facilities in our regional centres and in the bush.

Improving Education and Creating Employment Opportunities

The 2013-14 Budget focuses on improving educational outcomes in the bush, addresses skilled workforce shortages and generates employment opportunities in remote areas through:

* $0.68 million to support the Marine Ranger Program including training and consultation with Indigenous communities as well as monitoring of fishing activity, sacred site protection and community education;
* $6.2 million to offset increased government and non-government school utility costs for all schools across the Territory;
* $1.3 million for upgrades at Angurugu, Milyakburra and Centralian middle schools;
* $0.5 million to trial an expansion of the School of the Air to outstations;
* $1 million for the Indigenous Workforce Participation Program, a Territory‑wide grants program for the development of workforce planning that supports increased Indigenous employment opportunities; and
* $0.68 million for the Marine Ranger Program, including financial and training support to Indigenous communities, monitoring of fishing activity, sacred site protection and community education.

Health and Wellbeing

The 2013-14 Budget improves the delivery of health services in the regions by investing in new and upgraded facilities, including:

* $47 million for upgrades and remediation works at the Alice Springs, Gove, Tennant Creek and Katherine hospitals;
* $16.6 million of Commonwealth funding to construct and upgrade remote health clinics at Canteen Creek, Numbulwar, Kaltukatjara and Maningrida;
* $0.24 million to provide additional consultation space at the Ti Tree Health Centre;
* $0.94 million for BushMob to provide youth rehabilitation services in Alice Springs; and
* $0.7 million to expand the capacity of the Tennant Creek Family Support Centre.

Safe Communities

The 2013-14 Budget aims to restore law and order across the Territory and break the cycle of offending. Initiatives for better policing and improved community safety include:

* $22.5 million for the recruitment of an additional 120 police, including 20 officers in Alice Springs;
* $10.9 million to expand police facilities in Alice Springs and $0.65 million to operate the Alice Springs Police Station on a 24/7 basis;
* $9.4 million to construct a multipurpose police station and accommodation at Arlparra, under the Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory National Partnership Agreement;
* $5 million to increase courts’ capacity in Alice Springs;
* $3.86 million to increase the operational capacity of secure care facilities in Darwin and Alice Springs; and
* $3.09 million to enhance prison industries at Alice Springs Correctional Centre and implement the ‘Sentenced to a Job’ policy.

Supporting Communities

The 2013-14 Budget invests in communities to improve services and infrastructure. The Territory Government is undertaking significant shire council reform to strengthen governance and service standards and is committed to addressing the significant levels of overcrowding that exist in some communities, including:

* $2.1 million to implement local government reform as part of a $6.2 million package over three years;
* an additional $5 million to increase the Northern Territory Operational Subsidy grants pool for shire councils to $25.6 million;
* $139.6 million for remote Indigenous housing capital works and $32.25 million for repairs and maintenance;
* $60 million for property and tenancy management and repairs and maintenance services; and
* $44.6 million for new and upgraded housing for government employees in remote locations across the Territory.

The Territory Government has also initiated a Regional Roads Maintenance Program with the 2013-14 Budget providing an additional $10 million per annum for three years for routine and specific maintenance works to roads within the Central Desert, MacDonnell, Victoria Daly, Roper Gulf and Barkly shires.

Supporting Business and Economic Development

The 2013-14 Budget provides investment to broaden the Territory’s economic development opportunities in the regions and provides a range of support to business across the Territory to make doing business easier, including:

* $3.95 million under the pre-competitive geoscience initiative to stimulate mineral and petroleum exploration and attract exploration investment to the Territory;
* $3.28 million to support and develop the pastoral and agricultural industry;
* $2.16 million to support the livestock industry by protecting market access and minimising establishment of exotic pests and diseases;
* $1.68 million for research and extension into improved pastoral industry profitability and sustainability; and
* $0.61 million to increase the uptake of sustainable cropping practices for current and new agricultural enterprises.

Territory Lifestyle and Environment

The 2013-14 Budget invests in regional lifestyle with:

* $1 million for regional Sport and Recreation Officers;
* $0.5 million for upgrades to the Alice Springs drag strip;
* $50 000 to support the delivery of the Imparja Cup in Alice Springs;
* $0.16 million to support the Olive Pink Botanic Gardens;
* $0.45 million for the conservation work at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station;
* $0.5 million to support the Godinymayin Yijard Rivers Arts and Cultural Centre in Katherine; and
* $0.1 million to upgrade cinema systems at the Araluen Arts Centre.

The 2013-14 Budget protects the Territory’s environment through:

* $2 million to monitor surface and groundwater;
* $0.65 million to reduce feral camel impacts; and
* $0.48 million for additional Weed Management Officers in Katherine and Tennant Creek.

Infrastructure and Business

Essential Infrastructure

The Territory Government is investing $295 million to upgrade, deliver and maintain power, water and sewerage infrastructure.

The 2013-14 Budget also provides $31.7 million in capital and repairs and maintenance investment for the Indigenous Essential Services program, as part of a total $72.2 million to provide electricity, water supply and sewerage services to 73 remote communities.

Industrial Land Release

The 2013-14 Budget delivers infrastructure to improve the roll out of industrial land, including:

* $15 million for the second stage of water supply construction works at Middle Arm Industrial Precinct;
* $3.9 million for the development of industrial land in the vicinity of Wishart Road; and
* $4.3 million to complete the subdivision and development of Muramats Road.

Infrastructure investment remains high in 2013-14, at $1.2 billion. The 2013‑14 infrastructure program also includes Commonwealth funding and provides for the development of facilities to support Government’s policies and enhance services in remote communities.

The 2013-14 Budget provides funding of $106 million to support local business, develop the Territory’s workforce to better respond to industry requirements and provide a competitive tax environment for businesses to develop and grow.

Building the Territory’s Future

Major highlights in the 2013-14 infrastructure program include:

* $320 million for roads and transport including:
* $101 million for repairs and maintenance; and
* $55.2 million for strengthening and widening, flood immunity and road safety improvements on the national network.
* $270 million for housing including:
* $139.6 million for remote Indigenous housing capital works and $32.25 million for repairs and maintenance grants, under the joint Commonwealth and Territory governments’ Remote Indigenous Housing Program and Stronger Futures; and
* $3.4 million to refurbish existing public housing complexes across the Territory.
* $173 million to improve health facilities across the Territory including:
* $29.6 million for continuing remediation works and upgrades at Alice Springs Hospital;
* $16 million to continue upgrades at Royal Darwin Hospital to increase the number of beds in the emergency department and short-stay unit and to provide an additional two operating theatres;
* $10 million for infrastructure associated with the mandatory rehabilitation of problem drinkers; and
* $13 million to upgrade the emergency department at Gove District Hospital.
* $44 million for infrastructure to support police, fire and emergency services and the courts, including:
* $11.35 million for the repairs and maintenance of police, fire and emergency services facilities;
* $10.9 million for the expansion of police facilities in Alice Springs; and
* $9.4 million to construct a multi-purpose police station at Arlparra.
* $75 million to improve schools and other education facilities, including:
* $43.2 million for repairs and maintenance;
* $3 million for transportable classrooms in the Greater Darwin region; and
* $2 million for Woodroffe Primary School to extend the Pandanus Centre and provide two new special education classrooms.

Supporting Local Businesses

The 2013-14 Budget builds the capacity of local businesses to take advantage of opportunities presented by the Territory’s growing economy, including:

* $1 million to support business growth by providing professional advice on mentoring, environmental management, technology, employment practices and tourism development;
* $0.49 million to strengthen the Territory’s ecoBiz NT program and for additional frontline staff to ensure efficient delivery;
* $0.2 million for the Industry Development Grant scheme to assist individual businesses and investors pursue projects to develop and broaden the Territory’s industry and enhance the economy;
* $0.32 million for the Business Enterprise Centre, to provide support and advice to those wanting to start, expand or buy a business;
* $0.5 million for the Trade Support Scheme to assist Territory businesses develop export opportunities; and
* $0.4 million to assist tourism operators to improve their business operations with specialist advice from consultants for business plans, mentoring and operational improvements.

Building the Territory’s Workforce

The 2013-14 Budget delivers a range of initiatives to support the Territory’s workforce including:

* $3.07 million from the National Partnership Agreement on Productivity Places to continue up-skilling Territory workers and providing access to qualifications for job seekers through the Productivity Places Program;
* $2.9 million through the Apprenticeship and Traineeship Support Package for training apprentices and trainees, and supporting their employers;
* $2.1 million for the Industry Development Support Program to assist peak industry associations to grow the capability and capacity of local industry, and develop and grow a skilled workforce; and
* $1 million for the Indigenous Workforce Participation Program, a Territory‑wide grants program for the development of workforce planning that supports increased Indigenous employment opportunities.

A Competitive Tax Regime

The Territory has the lowest recurrent taxes for small and medium‑sized businesses among the jurisdictions.

The Territory has a competitive payroll tax regime with:

* no payroll tax payable by businesses with wages up to $1.5 million; and
* businesses under $5 million in wages paying effective tax rates lower than the national average.
* The Territory does not impose a land tax or a fire and emergency services levy.

Total Infrastructure Payments

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | 2013-14 |
|   | Program | Cash |
|  | $M | $M |
| BUDGET SECTOR |  |  |
| Capital works |  840 |  560 |
| Grants |  |  |
| Capital grants |  |  21 |
| Repairs and maintenance grants |  |  47 |
| Total grants |  |  68 |
| Repairs and maintenance |  |  257 |
| Infrastructure-related |  |  |
| Asset planning and delivery |  |
| Total infrastructure-related payments |   |  4 |
| TOTAL BUDGET SECTOR  |  889 |
| GOVERNMENT OWNED CORPORATIONS |
| Power and Water Corporation |  |
| Capital works |  |  217 |
| Repairs and maintenance |  |  78 |
| TOTAL GOVERNMENT OWNED CORPORATIONS  |  295 |
| TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE PAYMENTS  | 1 184 |

Building our Economy

Investing in the Economy

To ensure Territory businesses and Government maximise economic opportunities the 2013-14 Budget includes funding to establish an expert panel to provide advice regarding the potential for new economic development projects across the Territory and assisting with specific projects as required.

The panel will be supported by the newly established Economic Development Unit and will drive the development and implementation of a Northern Territory Economic Development Strategy. Economic development is also underpinned by a $1.2 billion infrastructure program.

The 2013-14 Budget focuses on diversifying the economy by investing in the Territory, including $31 million for mines and energy, $54 million for tourism and $51 million for primary industry and fisheries.

Tourism

The 2013-14 Budget includes an $8 million increase in tourism funding, to a total of $54 million to extend the Territory’s marketing activities, including:

* $12 million invested in cooperative marketing partnerships with airlines, online travel agents and traditional trade partners to increase bookings to the Territory;
* building the Territory’s market share in high-growth markets, particularly China, with a $1 million investment in activity focused on increasing Territory awareness, knowledge and product distribution;
* $8 million for whole-of-Territory domestic marketing activity in partnership with tourism retailers, airlines and other partners, highlighting experiences in the Territory’s regions;
* $2 million in media purchasing to market and promote the Territory as a visitor destination including digital, print, television and other mediums;
* $1 million investment in digital media opportunities, including social media and advocacy programs;
* $1 million investment to enable 24/7 delivery of consistent integrated consumer messages on travel websites;
* $1.9 million for the provision of regional marketing and visitor information services across the Territory;
* $1.7 million to market and promote the Territory as a business events destination; and
* $8.22 million for major events that support the Territory’s economy and positioning as a visitor destination.

Mines and Energy

The 2013-14 Budget includes additional funding of $9.1 million to increase the capacity of the Department of Mines and Energy and improve monitoring and regulation activities, including:

* $0.95 million to establish a Directorate of Energy to coordinate all government energy functions;
* $0.15 million for the pre‑competitive geoscience initiative to stimulate minerals and petroleum exploration through collaborative industry grants and promotion of the Territory’s exploration potential;
* $0.68 million for onshore regulation activities;
* $0.15 million for the International Investment Attraction Program;
* $2 million to establish a Mining Remediation Fund to address short and long-term remediation activities for the Territory’s legacy mine sites;
* $1 million for a dedicated mining remediation team to monitor the Territory’s legacy mine sites, and undertake necessary activities to reduce levels of environmental impact to an acceptable level;
* $1.7 million to improve mining approval timeframes;
* $1.5 million for the NT Geological Survey to improve the Territory’s competitive position in attracting new exploration investment; and
* $0.5 million for improved regulation and administrative support.

Primary Industry and Fisheries

The 2013-14 Budget supports the Territory’s food production and export sector, including the establishment of the Ord Development Unit. Funding includes:

* $0.4 million to establish an Ord Development Unit to maximise the Territory’s opportunities from the Ord development expansion;
* $0.58 million to assist the live animals export market and ongoing cattle inspection services;
* $2.5 million for the sustainable management of the Territory’s aquatic resources;
* $0.28 million to provide ongoing cattle inspection services to facilitate market access to eastern and southern Australia in response to changes in the destination of Territory cattle shipments;
* $0.3 million for commercial fisheries development, including the barramundi fishery;
* $0.5 million for a fisheries support network in East Arnhem; and
* $0.68 million for extension and support of aquaculture development in the Territory.

Key Economic Indicators

The Territory economy is forecast to strengthen with economic growth peaking in 2014-15 at 7 per cent, up from 5 per cent in 2013-14 and 4.6 per cent in 2012‑13. Growth is expected to be underpinned by an acceleration of construction activity related to a number of mining-related projects. Residential construction activity is expected to increase to near record levels.

In 2016-17, as the construction phase of current mining-related projects are completed, combined with the associated slowing in employment and population growth, the Territory economy is forecast to grow by 3.9 per cent.

In line with accelerated construction activity, the Territory’s annual population growth is forecast to continue strengthening to 2015, peaking at 2.5 per cent, and moderating to 1.0 per cent in 2016. Employment growth in the Territory is also forecast to follow a similar pattern.

Major Projects

The Territory Government is committed to securing major projects to support Territory businesses.

Ichthys Project

Works have commenced on the $34 billion project, which includes around $13 billion expenditure onshore in the Darwin region.

Marine Supply Base

The 2013-14 Budget includes $41.4 million to continue to support the $110 million Marine Supply Base, scheduled to be operational in 2014.

Darwin Correctional Precinct

Construction of the new facility began in early 2012 and is expected to be completed by June 2014, providing capacity for 1000 adult inmates.

Regional Highlights

Darwin

* $868.9M for better health
* $313.16M for better schooling
* $259.6M for safer communities
* $41.6M to support business and economic development
* $23.2M for regional development
* $16M for the Royal Darwin Hospital to increase the number of beds in the emergency department and short‑stay unit and to provide an additional two operating theatres
* $15.4M for the Royal Darwin Hospital high voltage electrical system, chiller and stand-by power upgrade
* $16M for the Tiger Brennan Drive duplication – CBD to Berrimah
* $6.12M for lifestyle and environment
* $5.3M to resurface the track and upgrade concrete barriers at Hidden Valley Motor Sports Complex

Palmerston and Litchfield

* $152.21M for better schooling
* $95.29M for safer communities
* $41.37M to continue construction of the Marine Supply Base including the connection of essential services such as power, water and sewerage
* $28.5M for water supply construction works at the Middle Arm Industrial Precinct
* $24.27M for Palmerston East headworks
* $10.51M for lifestyle and environment
* $9.82M to support business and economic development
* $6.05M to construct new public housing in Zuccoli
* $5.33M for better health
* $4.6M for regional development
* $3.4M to construct new public housing in Bellamack

Katherine

* $91.15M for better schooling
* $60.9M for better health
* $55.4M for regional development
* $34.41M for safer communities
* $13.13M to support business and economic development
* $6.17M to construct a new remote health clinic at Numbulwar
* $5.93M to construct a new remote health centre at Ngukurr
* $4.43M for the Lajamanu airstrip upgrade

Territory-wide

* $197.38M for better health
* $139.6M for remote Indigenous housing
* $91.41M for regional development
* $83.09M to support business and economic development
* $37.36M for safer communities
* $36.75M for lifestyle and environment
* $32.8M for road works on the national network
* $14.49M for government employee teacher housing in remote locations
* $10M for rehabilitation centres
* $7M to construct child and family centres at Gunbalanya, Maningrida, Ngukurr and Yuendumu
* $4M for the Urban Arterial Traffic Management Program
* $3.38M to refurbish existing public housing unit complexes across all regions
* $2.46M for additional beds to support alcohol and other drugs services in Katherine and Alice Springs
* $2M to upgrade targeted
sections on selected secondary local roads
* $3.83M to continue construction of a bridge over the King River on the Stuart Highway south of Katherine to improve flood immunity
* $1.72M for lifestyle and environment
* $0.68M to complete construction of a clinical conference and training facility at Katherine Hospital for students in the Katherine region

Top End Rural

* $51.1M for better schooling
* $50.5M for better health
* $17M to strengthen and widen targeted sections of the Arnhem Highway
* $13.74M for safer communities
* $8.64M to support business and economic development
* $5.45M to upgrade and seal selected stream crossings on Fog Bay Road
* $2.7M for regional development
* $2.16M for lifestyle and environment
* $2M to upgrade the hardstand area at Wurrumiyanga (Nguiu) to include raising the level of the site, providing a public receiving of goods area, bulk storage and a shed
* $1.62M to upgrade the health centre at Maningrida

East Arnhem

* $91.68M for better schooling
* $58.24M for regional development
* $46.58M for better health
* $29.6M for the community beef and mining roads, Central Arnhem Road, stream crossing upgrades at Goyder River and Badalngarrmirri (Donydji) River, and targeted pavement upgrades
* $13.71M for safer communities
* $13M for the Gove District Hospital Emergency Department upgrade
* $6.25M to support business and economic development
* $6.1M to construct a new remote health centre at Galiwin’ku
* $3M for the Groote Eylandt Trade Training Centre – new training facility including classrooms at Angurugu and refurbish kitchen at Alyangula to provide for VET programs
* $1.5M to provide passing opportunities on the Central Arnhem Road
* $0.7M for the continuation of fire upgrades at Gove District Hospital
* $0.75M for lifestyle and environment

Barkly

* $35.72M for better schooling
* $27.25M for better health
* $26.02M for safer communities
* $19.6M for regional development
* $9.36M for the Arlparra Police Station and accommodation
* $6.31M to support business and economic development
* $5.57M to construct a new remote health centre at Elliott
* $5.3M to construct a new remote health clinic at Canteen Creek
* $1M to complete Tennant Creek Hospital fire safety upgrade
* $0.95M for lifestyle and environment

Central Australia

* $292.2M for better health
* $153.95M for better schooling
* $111.39M for safer communities
* $62.12M for regional development
* $29.6M to continue remediation and upgrades of Alice Springs Hospital
* $22.78M to support business and economic development
* $13M for the rail overpass 10.5 kilometres south of Alice Springs
* $10.9M to expand police facilities in Alice Springs
* $8.51M for lifestyle and environment
* $5.97M to construct a new remote health centre at Ntaria
* $5M for increased courts capacity in Alice Springs
* $5M for the upgrade and sealing of targeted sections of the Tanami Road to improve accessibility and reduce access disruption to communities
* $4.85M for the completion of the seal on Namatjira Drive as part of the Mereenie Loop
* $4.58M for the Alice Springs Correctional Centre to provide new and upgraded infrastructure to support an additional 50 prisoners

Community Safety

Mandatory Rehabilitation

Mandatory rehabilitation is a key initiative of the Territory Government to target the problems with public drunkenness, antisocial behaviour and alcohol-related harm. The 2013‑14 Budget provides $10 million for the construction of mandatory rehabilitation infrastructure to deliver treatment for problem drinkers who have been taken into protective custody at least three times in a two month period.

The 2013‑14 Budget also provides:

* $35 million to deliver effective treatment and rehabilitation programs that will include a therapeutic alcohol and drug treatment component and work‑readiness training; and
* capacity for up to 800 problem drinkers to receive alcohol mandatory treatment at centres in Katherine, Darwin, Alice Springs and Nhulunbuy.

The 2013-14 Budget provides $394 million to support Police, Fire and Emergency Services. The Territory Government is focused on improving community safety and wellbeing across the Territory and delivers more resources to provide frontline services and invests in rehabilitation, corrections and court services to tackle antisocial behaviour and alcohol-related crimes.

Frontline Police Services

The 2013-14 Budget supports the Territory police force and provides $22.5 million for the recruitment of an additional 120 police to frontline services, including 20 officers in Alice Springs, and focuses on community safety by delivering additional resources, including:

* $2.84 million for the installation of closed-circuit television in Katherine, increased support at the Northern Territory Joint Emergency Services Communications Centre and additional staff to operate a 24/7 front counter service at the Alice Springs Police Station;
* $1.5 million for expanded accommodation for the Joint Emergency Services Communication Centre at the Peter McAulay Centre;
* $0.3 million to conduct a Safe Streets Audit;
* $10.9 million to expand police facilities in Alice Springs; and
* $11.35 million for the repairs and maintenance of Police, Fire and Emergency Services facilities.

Corrections

The new Darwin Correctional Precinct will be completed in 2013-14 providing a 1000-bed medium and maximum security correctional centre for adult male and female prisoners. The 2013-14 Budget provides additional funding of $5.39 million for the commissioning of the precinct including:

* $2.65 million to upgrade the Integrated Offender Management System, integrate the Prisoner Money Management System and provide specialist staff to facilitate the transition to the new correctional precinct;
* $0.41 million in 2013-14 for staff training and development and the redevelopment of the staff orientation and induction program at the Darwin Correctional Precinct; and
* $0.12 million in 2013-14 for the commissioning of the Secure Mental Health and Behavioural Management facility.

The 2013-14 Budget provides additional resources to manage rising prisoner numbers and focuses on support for the rehabilitation of adult prisoners through:

* $3.09 million to enhance prison industries at the Alice Springs Correctional Centre and implement the ‘Sentenced to a Job’ policy, including developing and implementing work, education, training and industry programs to provide prisoners with general and specific skills to seek, gain and retain employment;
* $2.4 million to manage rising prisoner numbers in the Darwin and Alice Springs correctional centres;
* $1.5 million to implement a pre-release centre work camp to allow prisoners to be accommodated while engaged in paid employment;
* $4.58 million to continue works at the Alice Springs Correctional Centre to support an additional 50 prisoners; and
* $0.5 million for additional prison work crews, one in the Alice Springs Correctional Centre and one in the Darwin Correctional Centre.

Remote Support

The Territory Government is committed to providing support to remote Territorians and, together with the Commonwealth, delivers:

* $40.3 million for community safety and justice aiming to directly support continued improvements in community safety in remote Territory communities through remote policing, infrastructure and improved drug enforcement;
* $9.4 million for the construction of a multi-purpose police station and accommodation at Arlparra; and
* $13.6 million for child, youth, family and community wellbeing, which aims to improve the safety and wellbeing of children, youth and families by supporting child protection systems, early intervention and targeted support services in communities.

Supporting Youth Services

The 2013-14 Budget supports youth at risk of entering the criminal justice system and youth offenders already in the detention system by delivering:

* $2 million for early intervention programs and residential boot camps for youth offenders;
* $1 million to establish a stand-alone Youth Justice Court in Darwin;
* $2.5 million to upgrade and transition the Alice Springs Youth Centre into a Police and Citizens Youth Club;
* $0.67 million to support the operation of the Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre; and
* $0.33 million to implement recommendations of the Youth Suicide Report.

Safer Community

The Territory Government has committed $25.1 million towards frontline services to ensure programs are targeted to meet the needs of vulnerable Territory children and families.

The 2013-14 Budget also delivers additional resources to support community safety, including:

* $3.86 million to increase secure-care facilities in Darwin and Alice Springs; and
* $5 million to support out-of-home care and child protection.

Court Support

The 2013-14 Budget delivers expanded capacity of courts and legal services through:

* $5 million for increased courts’ capacity in Alice Springs;
* $1.29 million for additional court support services;
* $0.65 million to support the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions;
* $0.34 million to increase sitting days of the Parole Board;
* $0.17 million for domestic violence legal services; and
* $1.18 million one-off funding in 2012-13 to Legal Aid to assist in managing costs arising from expensive criminal proceedings.

Education

Supporting Families

The 2013-14 Budget provides support to families by doubling the value of school vouchers to assist parents with back‑to‑school expenses, such as school uniforms and textbooks, and provides additional educational and parenting support for families in remote locations, through the Commonwealth and Territory governments’ Child and Family Centres joint initiative. The 2013‑14 Budget provides educational support to families, through:

* $6.6 million for Back to School vouchers, at $150 per student across all Territory schools; and
* $7 million, in partnership with the Commonwealth, to continue to build child and family centres in Gunbalanya, Maningrida, Ngukurr and Yuendumu, to deliver integrated models of learning, care, parenting and health promotion.

The 2013-14 Budget provides improved school infrastructure and financial and educational assistance for families, and invests in up-skilling the Territory’s workforce to provide more employment opportunities.

The 2013-14 Budget also facilitates the development of partnerships between the Department of Correctional Services and educational facilities, job service providers and industry groups that indicate a willingness to provide paid employment to prisoners, in order to address the skills gap in the Territory and to assist prisoners with rehabilitation and reintegration into the community.

Adult Education

The 2013-14 Budget invests in post-school education, including providing new opportunities for skills development in remote communities and prisons:

* $93.56 million in Territory and Commonwealth funding for Charles Darwin University and the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education and other providers to deliver qualifications to Territorians to develop new skills or build on existing skills for employment opportunities;
* $8 million in Commonwealth funding over four years to deliver up to 100 additional traineeships to provide ongoing employment in service support roles for Indigenous Territorians in the major remote towns;
* $3.07 million to continue up-skilling Territory workers and provide access to qualifications for job seekers under the National Partnership Agreement on Productivity Places Program;
* $2.9 million over 2012-13 and 2013-14 under the Apprenticeship and Traineeship Support package for training of apprentices and trainees and supporting their employers;
* $2.1 million for the Industry Development Support Program to assist peak industry associations to grow the capability and capacity of local industry, and develop and grow a skilled workforce;
* $5.47 million in Commonwealth funding to continue to deliver trade training centres in Groote Eylandt, Ngukurr and West Arnhem College; and
* $0.68 million for the Marine Ranger Program including financial and training support to Indigenous communities, monitoring of fishing activity, sacred site protection and community education.

Growing Young Territorians

The 2013-14 Budget provides additional funding for young Territorians through the Child Care Toy Fund, to provide additional early years learning opportunities including $150 000 for the continuation of the Child Care Toy Fund to provide toy and equipment grants to day care providers.

Improving Territory Schools

The 2013-14 Budget provides new, and upgrades existing, school infrastructure across the Territory. New infrastructure projects include providing additional classrooms and educational facilities and new services to support special needs students. The 2013-14 Budget school infrastructure projects include:

* $43.2 million for repairs and maintenance of schools across the Territory, including repair of ageing assets needing major mechanical, plumbing and roofing works, urgent tree maintenance and disaster management, improving energy efficiency of older buildings, funding retrospective building certification and compliance issues;
* $11.4 million for minor new works in 22 schools across the Territory, including:
* $2 million for transportable classrooms across the Greater Darwin region to respond to population and enrolment growth;
* $1.07 million to modify disabled and special needs access in Territory schools;
* $0.5 million for a new administrative building at Angurugu School;
* $0.5 million to upgrade classrooms at Darwin High School;
* $0.5 million to provide additional, flexible learning space at Larrakeyah Primary School;
* $0.42 million for a new transportable classroom at Milyakburra School;
* $0.5 million for infrastructure master planning to assist schools in responding to growth and change in student demographics; and
* $0.2 million in additional Commonwealth funding under the National Solar Schools Program;
* $2 million for Woodroffe Primary School to extend the Pandanus Centre and provide two new special education classrooms;
* $1 million for an arts and manual arts space at Darwin Middle School;
* $19.21 million for school buses and special needs transport for students, including an additional $158 000 per annum to provide an additional special‑needs student transport bus in Alice Springs;
* $6.2 million to help schools and school councils across the Territory to meet costs arising from utility tariff increases; and
* $2.53 million in additional funding for non‑government schools under the new funding model, to meet rising costs and increased school enrolments.

The Territory will continue to engage with the Commonwealth and the other states to deliver education reforms associated with the National Education Reform Agreement.

Stronger Futures

The 2013-14 Budget includes funding under the 10-year Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory National Partnership Agreement, which provides additional support to improve Indigenous outcomes in education. Funding of $42.1 million is provided for schooling to address remote education disadvantage and improve Indigenous education outcomes.

Health

Health Demand

The 2013-14 Budget provides additional funding to ensure that existing programs have sufficient resources including:

* $5.51 million to meet the operational expenses of the Alice Springs emergency department;
* $3.86 million to increase the operational capacity of secure care facilities;
* $0.94 million to provide a grant to the BushMob youth rehabilitation service;
* $0.5 million to meet the operational expenses of clients in 24‑hour supported accommodation for whom secure care orders have been made under the Mental Health Act; and
* $0.33 million for implementation of the Youth Suicide Report recommendations.
* The 2013-14 Budget also provides additional funding in excess of $40 million to meet increased demand and cost pressures for health and hospital services.

The 2013-14 Budget includes $1.36 billion to address the Territory’s health needs and progress National Health Reforms, and $169 million to safeguard children and provide family services. The 2013-14 Budget also provides $173 million to improve health infrastructure.

New Health Service Framework

From 2013-14, the Department of Health will be transformed from a single organisation into three entities comprising the Department of Health, Top End Health and Hospital Services, and Central Australian Health and Hospital Services. The Department of Health will increasingly focus on governance, policy development and regulatory functions, while Top End Health and Hospital Services, and Central Australian Health and Hospital Services will provide integrated, regionally‑based healthcare services under the operational management of two boards. These fundamental changes will decentralise the delivery of healthcare and are designed to deliver greater control of healthcare decisions to local communities, improve the flexibility, responsiveness and innovation capacity of the public health system and provide more effective and efficient public hospital and health services.

The Department of Health will retain responsibility for some Territory‑wide services including disability, oral health, alcohol and other drugs, centre for disease control and environmental health.

Importantly, while three separate entities will be established in the Territory, they will operate as a single Territory-wide service with common standards and protocols to ensure that service accessibility, safety and quality are not compromised by the structural changes.

Top End Health and Hospital Services includes the Royal Darwin, Gove District and Katherine hospitals, with a budget of $575 million in 2013-14.

Central Australian Health and Hospital Services includes the Tennant Creek and Alice Springs hospitals, with a budget of $229 million in 2013-14.

Supporting Senior Territorians and Carers

The 2013-14 Budget includes an additional $7.9 million in support for seniors, carers and pensioners through additional funding for the Northern Territory Pensioners and Carers Concession Scheme to partially offset the increase in tariffs for utilities.

The Pensioner and Carers Concession Scheme provides $22.54 million in subsidies to assist seniors, pensioners and carers to meet costs such as electricity charges and water and sewerage rates.

Improving Health Infrastructure

The 2013-14 Budget invests $173 million in the Territory’s health infrastructure in conjunction with the Commonwealth, including:

* $29.6 million for continuing remediation works and upgrades of the Alice Springs Hospital;
* $25 million to continue the construction and upgrade of the Ntaria, Papunya, Elliott, Ngukurr and Galiwin’ku health clinics;
* $16.6 million for the construction and upgrade of remote health clinics at Canteen Creek, Numbulwar, Kaltukatjara and Maningrida;
* $13 million to upgrade the emergency department at Gove District Hospital;
* $10 million for infrastructure associated with the mandatory rehabilitation of problem drinkers; and
* $5 million for a hospital scoping study and master plan for the Greater Darwin region.

The 2013-14 Budget also provides $7.07 million for minor health infrastructure projects across the health system including:

* $0.5 million for the construction of car parks at the Royal Darwin Hospital campus;
* $0.47 million for the construction of a new paediatric ensuite at the Gove District Hospital;
* $0.3 million for the refurbishment of old birthing rooms and operating theatres at Royal Darwin Hospital to increase the number of consulting rooms;
* $0.25 million for improvements to stores facilities at the Katherine Hospital; and
* $0.24 million to provide additional consultation space at the Ti Tree Health Centre.

Protecting our Children

The 2013-14 Budget includes $25.1 million that has been redirected into frontline services for families and children to ensure programs are targeted to meet the needs of vulnerable Territory children and families. Additional funding of $5 million supports out‑of‑home care and child protection, and $0.7 million has been allocated to expand the capacity of the Tennant Creek Family Support Centre.

Fulfilling Election Commitments

The 2013-14 Budget allocates significant funding to meet Government’s election commitments including:

* $7.5 million to support the Patient Assistance Travel Scheme;
* $6.5 million for enhanced Cardiac Outreach services and Cardiac Rehabilitation services and the commencement of low-risk angioplasty services; and
* $4.46 million for an additional 400 elective surgeries per annum.

More Nurses in Watch Houses

The 2013-14 Budget provides $1.2 million to increase the number of nurses and administrative staff to support the health screening of detainees in police watch houses in Darwin, Alice Springs and Katherine.

This service ensures that the health needs of people in police custody are identified in a timely manner and assessed quickly to ensure that medical and health issues are managed.

The additional funds bring the total resources to $2 million per annum and will enable more nurses to be employed in watch houses and an expansion of services to better manage times of peak activity.

Housing the Territory

First Home Owner Assistance

The 2013-14 Budget continues to provide support for first home buyers and to stimulate construction of housing, particularly affordable housing, including a:

* $25 000 First Home Owner Grant for the purchase of newly constructed homes or land to build a home throughout the Territory;
* $12 000 First Home Owner Grant for the purchase of existing homes in Darwin, Palmerston and the Darwin rural area; and
* $25 000 First Home Owner Grant to purchase existing homes in the rest of the Territory – recognising the limited new homes available in those areas.

In addition, there is a $7000 Principal Place of Residence Rebate for non‑first home buyers to purchase new homes or land.

The 2013-14 Budget delivers $270 million in conjunction with the Commonwealth to provide new, and upgrade existing, housing across the Territory as well as an additional $28.6 million to accelerate land release at Palmerston East and Kilgariff, which will increase the supply of land in the Greater Darwin and Alice Springs regions.

The 2013‑14 Budget also delivers $27 million over four years under the Real Housing for Growth Plan to stimulate construction of affordable housing and provide additional affordable rental properties.

Increasing the Supply of Affordable Housing

The Territory Government’s Real Housing for Growth Plan will provide additional affordable housing across the Territory. As part of Real Housing for Growth, the Territory Government will partner with private developers to facilitate the construction of 2000 affordable homes over the next four years.

This includes $3.8 million, increasing to $9.9 million ongoing from 2015-16, to support the headlease rental initiative of the Real Housing for Growth Plan, which is aimed at providing affordable rental properties for eligible low‑income earners and frontline Territory Government employees.

The 2013-14 Budget provides a total of $24.3 million to support accelerated land release at Palmerston East, together with a further $4.3 million to service the development of the new Alice Springs suburb of Kilgariff.

Territory Home Ownership Schemes

The 2013-14 Budget provides home loan products and services to increase the supply of new affordable housing, provide more home ownership opportunities for Territorians who would otherwise be unable to purchase their own home, and reduce demand pressures in the rental market.

The 2013-14 Budget provides new HomeBuild Access loans for home buyers across the Territory, including:

* the HomeBuild Access Low Deposit Loan, which provides a Territory Government loan of up to 17.5 per cent, allowing home buyers to reduce the amount of finance required to as low as 80 per cent of the purchase price;
* the HomeBuild Access off-the-plan deposit loan to help fund the deposit when entering into an off the plan purchase contract;
* the HomeBuild Access subsidised interest rate loan, reducing the home loan interest rate for the first five years of the loan term, making home ownership more affordable for Territorians; and
* a fee assistance loan, for eligible subsidised interest rate loan applicants, to enable borrowing of up to $10 000 interest-free to help with costs associated with buying a home such as conveyancing, white goods, deposit and stamp duty.

Delivering New, and Upgrading Existing, Remote Housing

The 2013-14 Budget includes joint investment by the Territory and Commonwealth governments in remote Indigenous communities in the Territory to provide additional housing, upgrade existing housing, and address overcrowding, homelessness and poor housing conditions, including:

* $139.6 million for remote Indigenous housing capital works under the joint Commonwealth and Territory governments’ Remote Indigenous Housing Program and the Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory National Partnership Agreement;
* $60 million for property and tenancy management, and repairs and maintenance services;
* $44.6 million for new and upgraded housing for teachers, healthcare professionals and other government employees in remote locations across the Territory;
* $32.25 million in repairs and maintenance grants for housing in remote Indigenous communities;
* $31.7 million in capital and repairs and maintenance investment for the Indigenous Essential Services program, as part of a total of $72.2 million, which provides electricity, water supply and sewerage services to 73 remote communities; and
* $17.4 million in Commonwealth funding for risk management assessment, remediation and removal of asbestos from remote Indigenous communities across the Territory.

Improving Urban Public Housing

The 2013‑14 Budget continues to provide safe, secure, affordable housing to those Territorians who are most in need. The 2013-14 Budget includes $52.94 million to upgrade and improve existing public housing stock across the Territory, including:

* $22.76 million for repairs and maintenance of existing public housing;
* $7.3 million for minor new works;
* $5.6 million in Territory funding for managed and supported accommodation and tenancy support programs;
* $5.37 million under the Public Housing Targeted Upgrade Program; and
* $3.4 million to refurbish existing public housing unit complexes.

The 2013‑14 Budget includes $0.8 million for the new NT Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will plan properly for the Territory’s future growth and progress the timely release of land to increase the supply of affordable housing.

Reducing Homelessness

The 2013‑14 Budget provides crisis and transitional supported accommodation, counselling, case management and advocacy services for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including:

* $9.44 million in joint Commonwealth and Territory funding to construct new public housing in Bellamack and Zuccoli under the A Place to Call Home initiative; and
* $7 million in joint Commonwealth and Territory funding for specialist homelessness services.

Lifestyle and Environment

Supporting Fishing

* The 2013-14 Budget supports anglers across the Territory, through:
* $0.55 million for the sustainable management of the recreational fishing sector;
* $0.3 million to implement a Recreational Fishing Development Plan, including fishing surveys, and investigating the potential for a new boat ramp at Shady Camp as well as suburban‑based boat ramps;
* $30 000 to establish and support a recreational fishing advisory committee;
* $20 000 to support the Amateur Fishermen’s Association of the Northern Territory and the Northern Territory Seafood Council to develop a comprehensive boat safety awareness and education program; and
* $5000 for Fishing Awards for amateur fishing.

The Territory Government continues its key priority to buy back commercial fishing licences for Chambers, Finke, Adams and Fog bays, increasing access for recreational anglers and establishing a working balance between commercial and amateur anglers.

The 2013-14 Budget enhances the Territory lifestyle with $132 million for major events, sporting and recreational activities, and facility upgrades and support for the arts and culture sector.

The 2013-14 Budget also provides $89 million to protect the unique Territory environment and encourage the sustainable use of resources.

Sports and Major Events

The 2013-14 Budget delivers major sporting and entertainment events, with $8.22 million for major events, including:

* $1.81 million to meet contractual commitments to support the V8 Supercars and Superbikes;
* $1.32 million to bring AFL matches to the Territory;
* $0.71 million for preliminary activity in the lead-up to the Alice Springs Masters Games 2014;
* $1.51 million for the V8 Supercars Championship, including the Race and Rock Concert; and
* $1.13 million to support the World Solar Challenge, BASSINTHEGRASS, Tattersall’s Finke Desert Race, Imparja Cup Cricket Carnival and the Australian Superbike and Supercross championships.

Free buses are provided for many of these events, including BASSINTHEGRASS, V8 Supercars, the Darwin Show and the Alice Springs Camel Cup.

Improving Sporting and Recreation Facilities

The 2013-14 Budget provides improved sports and recreation facilities with funding allocated for upgrades to ANZAC Oval, Alice Springs Go Kart Facility, Satellite City and Jingili BMX facilities, and Alice Springs Golf Club. The 2013‑14 Budget also provides:

* $5.3 million for resurfacing the track circuit and upgrading concrete barriers at Hidden Valley Motor Sports complex to meet the national standards required to host national and regional motor sporting events;
* $1.35 million to upgrade cycling tracks at Casuarina Coastal Reserve and Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve and walking tracks at Nitmiluk National Park, Litchfield National Park, Casuarina Coastal Reserve and George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens;
* $0.5 million for upgrades to the Alice Springs drag strip to support hosting national and regional motor sporting events;
* $0.26 million to provide additional shade shelters at Palmerston Water Park and Larrakia Football Stadium; and
* $0.15 million to install a child safety barrier and shade structures over the new pools at Howard Springs Nature Park.

Recreational Opportunities

The 2013-14 Budget supports a range of recreational activities for Territorians, including:

* $14.7 million to assist the thoroughbred racing industry to conduct race meetings, including the Alice Springs and Darwin Cup carnivals, and maintain facilities throughout the Territory;
* $2.3 million to support the operation of the Palmerston Water Park;
* $2.1 million to support the operation of the Lake Leanyer Recreation Park; and
* $0.8 million to assist the Darwin Greyhound Association with industry development, conducting race meetings and maintaining the facility at Berrimah.

Support for the Arts

The 2013-14 Budget delivers additional funding to enhance arts and cultural experiences with:

* $0.83 million to support the Defence of Darwin Experience, including maintenance of the building, exhibition material and content, interactive multimedia and digital displays, and new signage for the WWII Strauss Airfield Precinct, a part of the Defence of Darwin Experience at East Point;
* $0.5 million to support the operation of the Godinymayin Yijard Rivers Arts and Culture Centre in Katherine;
* $0.1 million to upgrade cinema systems at the Araluen Arts Centre; and
* $1 million for the Darwin Festival.

Environmental Regulation and Management

The 2013-14 Budget provides for a working balance between industry and environment with additional funding to assist with regulating the Territory’s mining sector and reduce adverse environmental impacts of legacy mining, including:

* $2 million to establish a Mining Remediation Fund; and
* $0.5 million to establish an independent board for the new Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority.

The 2013-14 Budget invests in the protection of natural resources with:

* $2.5 million for the sustainable management of the Territory’s aquatic resources;
* $1 million for Bushfires NT to support wildfire suppression activities;
* $0.65 million to reduce feral camel impacts;
* $0.48 million for weed management extension services across regional areas of the Territory to assist pastoralists in controlling weed incursions and infestations; and
* $0.2 million for the Keep Australia Beautiful Council of the Northern Territory, to support Territory Tidy Towns and annual Community Forum programs.

Encouraging Community Participation

The 2013-14 Budget provides opportunities for families and community groups to improve wellbeing and increase participation in physical activity.

$4 million has been allocated for a Sport Voucher Scheme, providing a $75 sports registration voucher to every school child in the Territory. The vouchers can be used to fund club or team membership and participation in holiday or after school programs from eligible organisations.

The 2013-14 Budget provides $1.75 million to increase grant payments to peak sport and recreation bodies including 60 individual organisations, representing a 50 per cent increase in the level of grant payments to these organisations, and $1 million for remote community sport and recreation programs.

The 2013-14 Budget provides $2.5 million to transition the Alice Springs Youth Centre into a Police and Citizens Youth Club. The transformation includes a new gymnasium/sports hall, entry, forecourt, administration offices and car park.

Transport

Tiger Brennan Drive

The Territory Government will continue the upgrade of Tiger Brennan Drive. The 2013‑14 Budget commits $16 million of the Territory’s $33 million contribution towards the duplication from Berrimah to the city, as part of the $103 million Territory and Commonwealth project.

Improving Safety

Additional funding has been allocated in 2013-14 for driver education courses to improve driver safety throughout the Territory, including:

* $4.5 million over four years to extend the DriveSafe NT Remote Indigenous driver education and licensing program;
* $0.25 million for DriveSafe NT driver training courses; and
* $0.15 million for Motorcyclist Education Training and Licensing (METAL) courses.

Additional safety investments include:

* $2 million to install safety guardrails along various bridges and roads throughout the Territory;
* $1 million for the Black Spot Program for road safety projects at targeted locations on Territory and local government roads;
* $0.5 million to install rock fall netting near Hayes Creek; and
* $0.32 million for marine safety services.

The 2013-14 Budget provides $320 million in road and transport asset investment, including $101 million in repairs and maintenance. The 2013‑14 Budget includes an additional $30 million over three years for routine and specific maintenance works to roads within the Central Desert, MacDonnell, Victoria Daly, Roper Gulf and Barkly shires under the Regional Roads Maintenance Program.

Enhancing Bus Services

The 2013-14 Budget improves public bus services in Darwin and Alice Springs through:

* $1.04 million for new public bus services in the suburbs of Lyons, Muirhead, Rosebery, Bellamack, Zuccoli and Kilgariff;
* $1 million to implement a new ticketing system on the Darwin Bus Service; and
* $0.16 million to provide an additional special needs student transport bus in Alice Springs.

Improving Motor Vehicle Registry Services

The 2013-14 Budget provides $1.47 million to support the operations of Territory motor vehicle registries. The additional funding will improve access to motor vehicle registry services, reduce waiting times, and increase the number of transactions that can be undertaken online or over the phone.

Connecting the Territory

The 2013-14 Budget delivers $287 million for Territory roads and national highways, including $95 million for repairs and maintenance.

Key projects to be delivered under the National Network roads program include:

* $55.2 million for strengthening and widening, flood immunity and safety improvements; and
* $13 million for construction of a grade-separated overpass on Stuart Highway over the railway south of Alice Springs.

There is also significant investment in Territory roads, in partnership with the Commonwealth, including:

* $29.6 million to continue stream crossing upgrades at Goyder River and Badalngarrmirri (Donydji) River, and targeted pavement upgrades on the Central Arnhem Road;
* $17 million for strengthening and widening targeted sections and improving safety on the Arnhem Highway including overtaking lanes;
* $5 million for continuation of the upgrade and seal of targeted sections on Tanami Road;
* $5 million to City of Darwin for the duplication of Lee Point Road from Tambling Terrace to Vanderlin Drive;
* $5 million to upgrade the Charlotte River crossing on Fog Bay Road, including construction of a new bridge and associated approaches and drainage works;
* $4.9 million to continue sealing Namatjira Drive as part of the Mereenie Loop;
* $4 million for the Urban Arterial Traffic Management Program; and
* $2.5 million to upgrade and seal the existing airstrip at Kaltukatjara.