Part 1

Speech

Delivered on

13 May 2014

by

The Hon. David William Tollner, MLA

Treasurer

of the

Northern Territory of Australia

Introduction

Madam Speaker, I move that the Bill be now read a second time.

I table the 2014-15 Appropriation Bill and related papers.

This Budget is the beginning of our children’s future. What we do today will have a long term legacy for our children. This Budget is also about taking direct and immediate action to tackle our pressing problems.

Madam Speaker we have an obligation to use our current opportunities to ensure our way of life is protected. But this Government also has a duty to make sure our children have the same prosperity and opportunities we have.

Our good fortune cannot be taken for granted and it cannot be squandered.

Our current opportunity has many parts. We have large gas reserves to provide energy, the world’s demand for food has reached a critical stage, and the rest of Australia is starting to realise that Northern Australia is the future of this great nation. But more needs to be done and this Government is taking action, action that will secure our children’s future by focusing on the family challenges of today.

The Country Liberals’ 2014 Budget meets those challenges by delivering one of the largest land and housing releases in Territory history, one of the biggest road building programs and Australia’s most financially supportive programs for families and pensioners.

Direct Action on Economic Growth

Madam Speaker, firstly let me turn to the economy, which will continue to grow under this Government.

We are enjoying the highest level of economic growth in the nation and our economy  is expected to outperform most other jurisdictions over the budget and forward estimates period.

The Territory economy is expected to expand by 6 per cent in 2014-15, well above the forecast growth for Australia.

Labour market conditions are also favourable, highlighted by strengthening employment growth and one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country.

Employment growth is expected to strengthen to 3.8 per cent with the average unemployment rate expected to fall to 4.0 per cent.

The outlook for the Territory economy is positive with private investment expected to remain at historical highs.

Direct Action on Cutting the Debt Burden

Madam Speaker, it has been well documented that this Government and Territorians were left with a forecast $5.5 billion debt to pay off by the former Labor Treasurer who sits opposite. A debt that had an interest bill of $425 million a year.

I am pleased to report that the 2014 Budget reduces the debt left to Territory families by the previous Labor Government by $1.3 billion and interest payments by $55 million.

Madam Speaker, this Budget highlights that unlike the members opposite, the Country Liberals are serious about fiscal management and lowering the burden of debt on Territory families and our future generations.

The general government net operating balance will now be in surplus in 2014-15, a full two years ahead of the fiscal strategy target. At the non-financial public sector, the 2014‑15 fiscal balance is a deficit of $723 million, which is higher than projected in the 2013-14 Budget due to the expected delay in the completion of the Darwin Correctional Precinct. The delay results in a transfer of $521 million from 2013-14 to 2014-15, however over the forward estimates the deficit substantially reduces to $39 million in 2017-18.

Madam Speaker, more importantly net debt is expected to only marginally increase over the forward estimates with $4.2 billion expected in 2017-18. Net debt to revenue will actually begin to fall over the forward estimates from 67 per cent in the Budget to 65 per  cent by 2017-18. This represents an overall improvement of $1.3 billion and 33 percentage points from the 98 per cent debt to revenue ratio estimated by the former Labor Government.

These significant improvements have been achieved through a combination of:

* efficiency and service delivery improvements and a focus on getting value for money;
* increased Territory revenue; and
* using these benefits to reduce debt rather than increase expenditure.

Madam Speaker, GST revenue remains the Territory’s largest revenue source, with $3.1 billion expected in 2014-15, a $157 million increase from that estimated a year ago. However this increase is only one-off, as the Commonwealth Grants Commission’s 2014 Update increased our relative share of the GST from 5.5 per cent to 5.9 per cent, an unprecedented high that is not sustainable.

However, Madam Speaker, we have seen a substantial ongoing increase in our own-source revenue of around $150 million due to the significant growth in our economy.

There is a policy change to the Bookmakers turnover tax. From 2014-15, the tax threshold will increase from $262 500 to $555 000, raising additional revenue of $2.8 million. Although not a revenue source for Government, consistent with provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, Motor Accident Compensation contributions will rise in line with consumer price index.

Madam Speaker ensuring that expenses growth is limited and sustainable is the cornerstone of good financial management. This Budget forecasts operating expenses growth of 1.8 per cent over the forward estimates, compared to revenue growth of 2.4 per cent over the same period. This highlights that we are living within our means.

Madam Speaker, as you know, the Government has made significant changes to the Power and Water Corporation (PWC) by separating the monopoly and moving to adopt the National Energy Market rules in line with other states, but could I remind the House that the Government will not be selling these assets and the Government will continue to set regulated tariffs and continue with the current subsidies.

The PWC debt is projected to rise to $1.6 billion within the next two years. That is equivalent to almost $7000 per man, woman and child in the Territory with an interest bill of $350 a year for each of us.

The Government is tackling Labor’s debt legacy right across our economy and PWC will be no different.

Direct Support to Families

Madam Speaker, let me focus on families.

Cost of living and affordable housing are critical issues facing all Territorians. This Budget goes further than ever before in taking the pressure off the housing market and contains increased assistance to help Territory families with everyday costs. We have increased child care subsidies, sports vouchers and continued the back to school vouchers.

For a family of three children, two school age and one under two in child care, this equates to $2145 in annual support from the Giles Government.

No other government in Australia is providing this level of financial help for its families.

This Budget provides a total of $5.9 million for enhanced child care subsidies, including an additional $1.3 million to expand the scheme to include family day care and $400 000 to increase the subsidy by 10 per cent, further reducing the cost of child care services for young children.

Expanding the scheme to include family day care means an additional 1000 children will be eligible for the scheme. This equates to a total subsidy of $30 per week and around $1445 per year for a child under two.

Budget 2014 includes an extra $5 million for Territory families through the Government’s Sports Voucher scheme. The Giles Government is increasing the voucher from $75 to $200. This $7.9 million initiative will ease the financial burden on Territory families. It includes more activities such as dance, music lessons and other arts and cultural pursuits. The Sports Voucher scheme also provides a direct cash injection into many local and sporting organisations supporting their viability.

Madam Speaker, this voucher payment is additional to the $6.6 million already being provided to Territory families for the $150 Back to School Voucher that helps parents with expenses such as school uniforms and textbooks.

Madam Speaker, let me state again, no other government in Australia is providing this level of financial help for its families.

Direct Action on More Affordable Housing

Madam Speaker, the Adam Giles Government fully understands and appreciates that our strong economy has put pressure on housing affordability and we are taking immediate action on this challenging issue.

In addition to supporting Territory families directly, the Giles Government is working on reducing the cost of housing by providing more residential land.

This Budget invests $84.4 million in the most ambitious residential land release program ever undertaken by a Northern Territory Government.

The new land will support the construction of 6500 new dwellings and will ensure ownership is within reach of the current and next generation of Territory families.

The fast track roll out of residential land across the Territory will develop a new suburb, Palmerston North, on 200 hectares near the site of the new Palmerston Regional Hospital.

Berrimah Farm will also be revitalised into a major urban development.

The total investment in residential land release includes:

* $36.9 million to continue headworks in Palmerston East, to support the release of Zuccoli stages 3, 4 and 5, estimated to supply 1840 residential lots;
* $8 million to support an englobo release in Palmerston North and Berrimah Farm, estimated to supply 2000 residential lots; and
* $11.3 million for land release projects in the southern region, including $6.3 million to continue works under Kilgariff stage 1a.

These initiatives will have a significant impact on improving housing affordability.

From today, the First Home Owner Grant will be amended to provide more targeted assistance to Territorians, increasing the grant from $25 000 to $26 000 for first home buyers purchasing or building a new home. The $600 000 value cap will also be removed.

From 1 January 2015, the scheme will be directed to new homes only, with grants for existing homes to cease from this date. This encourages an increase in supply of housing, rather than just continued turnover of existing dwellings. By stimulating the market for new home construction we are creating an environment for jobs growth in this sector and reducing upward pressure on the rental market.

The 2014 Budget also continues to assist Territorians owning their own home through the provision of Home Build Access loan products and services, providing home ownership opportunities for Territorians who would otherwise be unable to access private sector finance.

The Territory Government’s Real Housing for Growth plan continues to provide more housing choices for Territorians. In 2014-15, $6.7 million is being invested and 190 dwellings will be provided under the scheme.

Today’s Budget also includes $224.3 million for housing across the Territory, with $44.9 million for urban public housing, $36.7 million for government employee housing and $122.8 million to construct new, and upgrade existing, housing in remote communities.

Direct Action on Improving Education

Madam Speaker, we need skilled kids for our bright future.

That is why the Giles Government is committed to improving our children’s education and improving educational outcomes.

Improving educational outcomes in the bush is paramount to the Territory’s future. This Budget allocates $40.5 million over four years for new boarding facilities across the Territory, to improve educational outcomes for students in the bush, and provide them with the same level of educational support afforded to urban kids.

Budget 2014 includes $17 million over three years to support implementation of a suite of reforms to increase school autonomy and improve educational outcomes. The reforms include the introduction of global school budgeting from 2015, a move towards the introduction of independent public schools, and a review of the Education Act.

This Budget builds the importance of schooling by investing in educational facilities over the next four years for new preschool, primary and special schools and facilities across the Territory, including:

* $37 million over two stages for a new preschool and primary school in Zuccoli;
* $1.2 million for expanded preschool facilities in Rosebery;
* $20 million for a new special school in Bellamack;
* $11.6 million for the Northern Territory Open Education Centre, including a generous $3 million contribution from INPEX; and
* $5.2 million for extra classroom space to meet higher student attendance needs, and related works, at Maningrida, Galiwin’ku, Borroloola, Ntaria and Alekarenge schools.

This Budget also provides for continued support for Indigenous Territorians to access training that links to community projects with employment outcomes, improved employability skills or enterprise development.

Direct Action to Support Safe and Secure Communities

Madam Speaker, this Budget continues to invest in resources to strengthen law and order and delivers $709 million to improve community safety across the Territory with property offences, house break-ins, theft and property damage at their lowest levels in 14 years.

Budget 2014 provides a total Police, Fire and Emergency Services budget of $382 million. There is additional funding of $3.96 million for continued upgrades for key information and communication technology systems, including $910 000 to upgrade the NT Fire Alarm System Transmission.

The Budget also invests in police facilities with:

* $8.4 million for repairs and maintenance;
* $9 million to redevelop the Alice Springs Police Station;
* $15.6 million to construct police facilities in Arlparra, Yuendumu and Pirlangimpi;
* $1.8 million for overnight police facilities in Mount Leibig, Areyonga and Robinson River; and
* $2.84 million to continue to operate 24/7 front counter services at Alice Springs Police Station, as well as upgrade and support the Northern Territory Joint Emergency Services Communications Centre.

Additional funding of $3 million is allocated in this Budget for a new Supreme Court in Alice Springs and an additional $300 000 to investigate public interest disclosures.

The new Darwin Correctional Precinct will see the establishment of the Northern Territory Correctional Industries. This will provide more opportunities for inmates to receive valuable training to obtain the life skills required to assist reintegration into the community and reduce the risk of re-offending.

Madam Speaker, this Budget continues to support Government’s working prisons policy by providing:

* $2.45 million to establish a 50-bed regional work camp at Nhulunbuy;
* $1 million to provide enhanced monitoring and surveillance of offenders in the community; and
* $1.85 million to support ‘Sentenced to a Job’ and the continued enhancement of prison industries at Alice Springs Correctional Centre.

This Budget provides additional support for the justice system though an additional $3.36 million to establish and operate the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal. The Tribunal will provide a streamlined and equitable approach to dispute resolution relating to administrative decisions.

Direct Action for Youth and Children at Risk

This Budget also focuses on improving youth justice facilities and services to help reduce the number of young people at risk of offending and re-offending with the development of the Youth Justice Framework, and includes:

* $5.65 million for early intervention-targeted youth programs, including boot camps and community-based diversion programs; and
* $9.75 million for the operation of the youth detention centres across the Territory. Works will also be undertaken at the Darwin Correctional Centre site at Berrimah upon its decommissioning for an expanded Darwin Youth Detention Centre.

Budget 2014 delivers more than $160 million to the Department of Children and Families to provide a range of services to protect children in the Territory from harm including:

* $33.9 million for child protection services;
* $79.4 million for out-of-home care services; and
* $38.3 million for family and parent support services.

In addition, funding to support youth initiatives in 2014-15 includes:

* $800 000 towards recruitment, retention and support for foster and kinship carers, improving long-term care options for children;
* $940 000 continued funding to support the BushMob Youth Residential Rehabilitation Service in Alice Springs;
* $2.1 million for improving management and accountability of out-of-home care services, providing better outcomes for children; and
* $500 000 to operate a new residential care facility in Tennant Creek for children under ten years.

Direct Action on Health

Madam Speaker, the 2014 Budget demonstrates this Government’s commitment to the health and wellbeing of Territorians with a $1.35 billion investment in health-related expenditure.

The new Health Services Framework will start on 1 July 2014, with primary health care services to be integrated into the Top End Health Service and the Central Australia Health Service, through the transfer of urban and remote primary health care from the Department of Health. The three separate entities (the Department and the two Health Services) will continue to operate as a single Territory-wide system with consistent standards and protocols to ensure that service accessibility, safety and quality are not compromised by the changes.

In addition to expanded services, the 2014 Budget provides $191 million for health-related facilities, including $5 million to continue preliminary works for stage one of the new Palmerston Regional Hospital.

The $150 million Territory and Abbott Government-funded Palmerston Regional Hospital will be delivered as planned. The site has been specifically chosen for its access and flexibility and, more importantly, it has space that can continue to meet the needs of a growing population.

In addition, the Giles Government continues to invest in the health and wellbeing of Territorians, including:

* $22.8 million for upgrades at Royal Darwin Hospital; and
* $1.9 million for the emergency department at Katherine Hospital.

This Budget provides funding to expand and maintain the range and quality of services available in the Territory including:

* $725 000 additional funding for mobile breast screening across remote communities and for a Palmerston-based service;
* $391 000 to support palliative respite care services in Alice Springs; and
* $4.46 million continued funding to provide an additional 400 elective surgery procedures a year.

Budget 2014 continues to deliver services to support mandatory rehabilitation for problem drinkers. More than 300 people have now been assessed and provided with medical withdrawal and rehabilitation services. The Budget will see the establishment of custom‑designed facilities, including:

* the Darwin services transferring to a facility in Berrimah, following its refurbishment into a therapeutic environment;
* $3.9 million for a secure treatment facility to complement expanded assessment capacity at Katherine Hospital;
* assessment and treatment facilities developed in Tennant Creek; and
* increased capacity in Alice Springs.

Madam Speaker, the Northern Territory Pensioner and Carer Concession Scheme is designed to support those most in need and is the most generous in the nation. The 2014 Budget includes $27.9 million to support pensioners, seniors, carers and veterans for a range of concessions including utilities, car registration, travel and rates.

However, to ensure that the scheme provides help where it is really needed, from today all new applicants to the scheme will need to meet Commonwealth eligibility criteria by being in receipt of a Centrelink concession.

No existing scheme members will be affected by the change.

Direct Action on Northern Australia Development

Madam Speaker, one of the challenges for any government is to avoid the boom and bust cycles. Here in the Territory we are enjoying very strong growth but we are not sitting back and resting on our laurels.

This Government is taking action now to identify new opportunities and new businesses to diversify the Territory economy. We are focussed on the Northern Australia Development Strategy, which includes growing our local businesses to take advantage of growth from Asia and domestic Australian markets.

Building the north means growing our infrastructure, and this Budget delivers total infrastructure spending of $1.14 billion for land release, school and health facilities, housing and roads.

The roads program is one of the biggest seen in the Territory with a total of $377.8 million including:

* $83 million for Tiger Brennan Drive;
* $30 million for strategic economic development roads;
* $3 million for the Larapinta Drive/Lovegrove Drive intersection;
* $7.3 million to improve Outback Way roads; and
* $81.2 million for repairs and maintenance.

Madam Speaker, this Budget provides additional funding of $1.8 million to develop Northern Australia through the establishment of a new Northern Australia Development Office that will, in partnership with the Commonwealth and industry, harness and coordinate economic development strategies locally, nationally and internationally.

The Territory Government has also appointed a Northern Territory Commissioner to Indonesia, and other Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries, that will provide in-country assistance and connections to help the Territory conduct business and build closer ties with the region.

The Territory is making huge progress in rebuilding the live cattle trade with Indonesia in the wake of Labor’s damaging export ban. The Chief Minister has been working hard in the markets of Indonesia, Vietnam and more recently Timor Leste to expand our cattle, buffalo and other industries in this important region.

Madam Speaker, the recent finalisation of the Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement and the Japan-Australia Economic Partnership is good news for the Territory. These agreements will provide opportunities for Territory exports to expand into the Korean and Japanese markets and will benefit through progressive reductions in tariffs, particularly on horticulture, beef and resource commodities. By way of example, Korea will progressively eliminate its 30 per cent import duty on Australian mangoes and, combined with opening stage 3 of the Ord, this will provide a massive opportunity for our growers and exporters.

Funding of $400 000 continues to be provided to lead the Ord stage 3 development work to expand irrigation channels into the Territory, releasing 14 500 hectares of new agricultural land.

Direct Action for Local Business

This Budget recognises the importance of local businesses and takes direct action through additional funding of:

* $950 000 for a Red Tape Abolition Squad and procurement reforms; and
* $500 000 over two years to continue the Business Innovation Support Initiatives program to provide funding to small and medium-sized businesses to pursue innovation and undertake research and development projects.

This Budget also provides $51.4 million to continue the release of commercial land to assist businesses and economic activity, including:

* $5.1 million for additional industrial lots at Darwin Business Park North;
* $6 million at Darwin Business Park to service further subdivisions;
* $6.3 million for five industrial lots by extending Muramats Road;
* $3 million for the next stage of industrial release on Udall Road, Tennant Creek; and
* $5.9 million to continue works on Wishart Road industrial precinct.

Direct Action on Mining and Resources

Mining investment remains crucial to the economic development of the Territory.

This Budget is investing in the Territory’s future through an additional $15.8 million over four years to create opportunities for resource exploration. This includes acquiring new pre-competitive geoscience information, improving delivery of geoscience and exploration data to industry, providing industry grants for high-risk exploration and promotion of the Territory as an exploration investment destination. This geo data will support the development of new mining opportunities and help expand current operations.

This Budget also promotes mining investment through an additional $8 million over four years for an accelerated collaborative program to assess the Territory’s shale gas potential and resources.

More than $1 million is provided to continue improving mining approval timeframes and water monitoring assessment of higher risk sites under the Mining Management Act.

In February this year, the Government granted the first Territory onshore gas licence in over 30 years, for Central Petroleum’s Surprise development in Central Australia. There is also an extensive exploration program currently underway in the area. These projects have the potential to generate significant economic activity and employment opportunities in Central Australia.

Direct Action on Rural and Regional Areas

Madam Speaker, improving the autonomy and financial capability of local government is key to economic development in the bush.

The Government is restoring the voice of the bush by setting up 63 local authorities across the Territory. The local authorities will be involved in planning and delivery of services and all expenditure matters involving their local community.

This Budget provides an additional $5 million towards local authorities, which in turn improves the financial sustainability of regional councils. This increases the total Territory subsidy to $30.6 million a year.

This injection is in addition to $10 million for a regional economic development grant program, part of a three-year, $30 million program.

The Giles Government has formed a new regional council area in the Wadeye, Palumpa and Peppimenarti region. This new council has been separated and will be up and running on 1 July this year. An additional $3 million over two years has been allocated to fund the separation and allow this new West Daly Regional Council to ramp up its presence in the area.

These changes, along with devolving a number of Territory Government functions to the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT), deliver on the Country Liberals’ promise to give communities back their voice on the services delivered in their community.

The Territory Government is also delivering in regional areas through the Indigenous Business Tender Support Program. This program is focused on remote and regional Indigenous business and aims to help improve their ability to navigate government and private sector tender processes.

This Budget also progresses capital projects in remote communities to provide capacity to support additional health, education and police facilities as well as housing and roads. Projects include:

* $14.85 million to upgrade sewerage systems at Maningrida, Angurugu and Galiwin’ku;
* $2.6 million to replace water storage facilities at Numbulwar and Yirrkala; and
* $45 million, in partnership with the Commonwealth, for a Regional Roads Productivity Package to upgrade Roper Highway, Port Keats Road, Arnhem Link Road, Buntine Highway, Central Arnhem Road and Santa Teresa Road.

This year the market forces affect even major players such as Rio Tinto. The company’s decision to curtail operations at the Gove alumina refinery will, first and foremost, affect the people of Nhulunbuy.

The Territory Government and Rio Tinto have established a Regional Economic Development Fund to explore opportunities to attract new investment and industries in the region. The Government will continue to explore measures to support the local community.

The Giles Government’s commitment to Gove as the service and support centre for the East Arnhem region is evidenced by the more than $1 billion projected expenditure in the region, over the next five years, on essential services including health, education and police.

Funding of $2 million is provided for the Regional Economic Development Fund. In addition, $500 000 is provided for development of a large vessel pontoon at Melville Bay in Nhulunbuy.

This Budget also fosters significant economic development in the Tiwi Islands through investment in roads, infrastructure and services.

In February, the Tiwi Plantations Corporation and Japanese company Mitsui and Co. signed a memorandum of understanding to develop markets to sell Tiwi woodchips creating up to 100 jobs for the local community.

Our investment in the Tiwi Islands includes:

* $800 000 to continue the Tiwi Islands ferry service; and
* $260 000 to support Tiwi Islands economic development.

Direct Action on Agriculture

The Giles Government is capitalising on the rapidly growing food demands of our Asian neighbours and today I announce a new initiative that sees the establishment of the Food Industry Development Group reshaping and driving economic development activities in the agricultural sector.

This group will coordinate and implement economic development activities including market analysis, new market development and facilitation of land investment packages with an aim to assist industry to attract overseas investment.

The demand for food in Asia is forecast to double by 2050 and this new Food Industry Development Group will focus on the live export markets, new products for China, aquaculture investments and ongoing support for the Tiwi project works. As an important part of the Government’s Northern Australia Development Strategy, the group will also work with our counterparts in the West Australian, Queensland and Commonwealth governments and their international trade offices.

Direct Action on Tourism

Tourism is a cornerstone of the Territory economy. In 2012-13, more than 1.2 million visitors supported 16 000 jobs in this sector.

This Budget continues Government’s support for tourism, providing $13.6 million to market the Territory internationally and $17.5 million for domestic marketing activity in partnership with tourism retailers, airlines and other partners.

This includes an additional $7.5 million to market the Territory internationally and $500 000 for a regional and remote tourism product development grant program.

In addition, this Budget adds to the Territory’s lifestyle by providing:

* $5 million for a boardwalk along the Darwin Esplanade; and
* $2.5 million to construct a tourism boardwalk in Alice Springs.

At the local level, Alice Springs could soon become a mecca for mountain bikers around the globe, with the opening of a new world-class trail network at the Telegraph Station.

The Country Liberals Government provided $150 000 to build the new trails, which have been constructed to international standards.

As part of our Tourism Vision 2020 plan to boost tourism numbers, the Country Liberals Government is exploring opportunities in the cruise sector to increase the number of cruise ship visits, attract home-base cruise ship operations and improve the visitor experience in the Territory.

With passenger, crew and operational spend, the cruise sector contributed an estimated $66.8 million to the Territory economy in 2012-13, up 3.7 per cent on the previous year.

Territory Lifestyle

Madam Speaker, the Giles Government is proud of the Territory lifestyle and this Budget supports Territorians who want to lead a healthy and balanced lifestyle, with greater resources for sport, recreation and cultural activities.

This includes the additional $5 million for the Sports Voucher scheme and $5.6 million for grants to peak sporting bodies and active recreation organisations that aim to keep Territory kids active and ensure all young Territorians have access to sporting and recreational activities.

This Budget provides upgrades to major event infrastructure including:

* $4.3 million for upgrades at the Hidden Valley Motor Sports Complex to support the delivery of local and national events and competition; and
* $300 000 to continue upgrades to the Alice Springs drag strip to support hosting regional and national events.

This Budget also provides $2.15 million additional funding to bring AFL, NRL and A-league soccer matches to the Territory. This includes Melbourne Demons versus Port Adelaide Power, Parramatta Eels versus Canberra Raiders and the Adelaide United Football Club to play a pre-season match in, and deliver youth programs to, Central Australia.

This Budget provides direct action of $44.9 million to enhance the Territory’s arts and cultural experiences including $7.12 million to support the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory under its new governance arrangement as an independent statutory authority and $500 000 to support Katherine’s Cultural Centre.

This Budget supports creative Territorians with the Northern Territory Arts Grants Program providing funding of $6.8 million in 2014-15 towards community arts and cultural infrastructure, arts organisations, festivals and events.

This Budget also delivers anglers greater opportunities to hook their next catch, through:

* $2.5 million for the sustainable management of the Territory aquatic resource;
* $2.5 million additional funding to upgrade two barrages on the Mary River to prevent salt water intrusion;
* $560 000 for the sustainable management of the Territory’s recreational fishing sector;
* $700 000 for ongoing development of Indigenous commercial fishing capacity; and
* there is Budget funding for additional CCTVs including the installation of five CCTV cameras at the Elizabeth River boat ramp.

Madam Speaker protecting the Territory’s unique environment is an important part of our lifestyle.

Budget 2014 provides:

* additional funding of $2.4 million for the acceleration of land and water suitability assessments;
* $5.85 million for the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority to provide advice on environmental impacts of development proposals;
* $1.5 million to manage fire and weeds on Crown land across the Territory; and
* $1 million to continue the environment grants program.

Conclusion

Madam Speaker, this Budget is a budget that secures our children’s future and builds their children’s future.

It maintains our commitment to drive down debt and highlights the sound fiscal management principles that the Giles Government has put in place.

It is a Budget that continues to harness the benefits from the economic growth we are experiencing and develops our regions.

It is a Budget that gives financial relief to families.

It is a Budget that will reduce the cost of housing for Territory families through accelerated land release.

It is a Budget that has a strong focus on law and order, improving educational and health outcomes and promoting the Territory’s lifestyle.

The Territory’s future is bright and we are creating prosperity for all Territorians – this generation and most importantly the next.

I commend the 2014 Budget to the House.

Part 2

Appropriation Bill

Serial 79

Appropriation (2014-2015) Bill 2014

Mr Tollner

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT

to authorise an amount to be paid from the Central Holding Authority for the financial year
ending 30 June 2015

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

APPROPRIATION (2014-2015) ACT 2014

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Act No. [ ] of 2014

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TABLE OF PROVISIONS

1 Short title 1

2 Appropriation 1

3 Expiry 1

Schedule Appropriation

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

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Act No. [ ] of 2014

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

An Act to authorise an amount to be paid from the Central Holding Authority for the financial year ending 30 June 2015

*[Assented to [ ] 2014]*

*[Second reading [ ] 2014]*

The Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory enacts as follows:

1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Appropriation (2014-2015) Act 2014*.

2 Appropriation

1. An amount in aggregate of $4 835 680 000 is authorised to be paid from the Central Holding Authority for the financial year ending 30 June 2015.
2. The amount is authorised to be paid to each Purpose of an Agency that is specified in the Schedule, in the amount specified opposite the Purpose.

3 Expiry of Act

This Act expires on 1 July 2015.

| *Appropriation (2014-2015) Act 2014*SCHEDULE – continued |
| --- |
| Purposes | Amounts |
|  | $000 |
| AUDITOR-GENERAL’S OFFICE  |  |
| Output  | 3 675 |
| Capital |  |
| Commonwealth  |  |
|  |  |
| NORTHERN TERITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION  |  |
| Output  | 1 408 |
| Capital |  |
| Commonwealth  |  |
|  |  |
| OMBUDSMAN’S OFFICE  |  |
| Output  | 1 929 |
| Capital |  |
| Commonwealth  |  |
|  |  |
| DEPARTMENT OF THE CHIEF MINISTER  |  |
| Output  | 73 992 |
| Capital | 395 |
| Commonwealth  | 4 841 |
|  |  |
| DEPARTMENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  |  |
| Output  | 23 275 |
| Capital | 41 |
| Commonwealth  |  |
|  |  |
| NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES  |  |
| Output  | 294 498 |
| Capital | 8 576 |
| Commonwealth | 25 453 |
|  |  |
| DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY AND FINANCE  |  |
| Output  | 108 021 |
| Capital |  |
| Commonwealth  |  |
|  |  |
| DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS  |  |
| Output  | 117 544 |
| Capital |  |
| Commonwealth  | 22 926 |
|  |  |
| DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONS  |  |
| Output  | 52 464 |
| Capital |  |
| Commonwealth  |  |
| DEPARTMENT OF CORPORATE AND INFORMATION SERVICES  |  |
| Output  | 126 248 |
| Capital | 5 079 |
| Commonwealth  |  |
|  |  |
| DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND JUSTICE  |  |
| Output  | 76 326 |
| Capital |  |
| Commonwealth  |  |
|  |  |
| OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT  |  |
| Output  | 4 790 |
| Capital |  |
| Commonwealth  |  |
|  |  |
| DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  |  |
| Output  | 135 795 |
| Capital |  |
| Commonwealth  | 15 767 |
|  |  |
| DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES  |  |
| Output  | 181 016 |
| Capital | 2 780 |
| Commonwealth  |  |
|  |  |
| DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  |  |
| Output  | 990 378 |
| Capital  | 1 229 |
| Commonwealth  | 37 413 |
|  |  |
| DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  |  |
| Output  | 531 844 |
| Capital | 1 053 |
| Commonwealth | 299 398 |
|  |  |
| DEPARTMENT OF LANDS, PLANNING AND THE ENVIRONMENT  |  |
| Output  | 61 995 |
| Capital | 329 |
| Commonwealth  |  |
|  |  |
| DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES  |  |
| Output  | 40 650 |
| Capital | 251 |
| Commonwealth  |  |
| DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY  |  |
| Output  | 26 028 |
| Capital |  |
| Commonwealth  | 3 911 |
|  |  |
| DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  |  |
| Output  | 34 599 |
| Capital | 450 |
| Commonwealth | 510 |
|  |  |
| DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING  |  |
| Output  | 61 464 |
| Capital  | 6 817 |
| Commonwealth  | 148 497 |
|  |  |
| TOURISM NT |  |
| Output  | 42 571 |
| Capital |  |
| Commonwealth  |  |
|  |  |
| DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, RECREATION AND RACING  |  |
| Output  | 52 193 |
| Capital |  |
| Commonwealth  |  |
|  |  |
| DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND MUSEUMS  |  |
| Output  | 33 721 |
| Capital  | 45 |
| Commonwealth  | 1 168 |
|  |  |
| DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT  |  |
| Output  | 140 627 |
| Capital  | 71 524 |
| Commonwealth  | 128 421 |
|  |  |
| DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE  |  |
| Output  | 60 913 |
| Capital  | 142 496 |
| Commonwealth  | 31 950 |
|  |  |
| DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  |  |
| Output  | 89 627 |
| Capital |  |
| Commonwealth  | 25 024 |
| PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY  |  |
| Output  | 42 968 |
| Capital | 260 |
| Commonwealth  |  |
|  |  |
| ABORIGINAL AREAS PROTECTION AUTHORITY  |  |
| Output  | 2 681 |
| Capital |  |
| Commonwealth  |  |
|  |  |
| CENTRAL HOLDING AUTHORITY  |  |
| Treasurer’s Advance  | 30 000 |
| Interest, Taxes and Administration  | 183 916 |
| Employee Entitlements  | 221 920 |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS | 4 835 680 |
| Output  | 3 413 240 |
| Capital  | 241 325 |
| Commonwealth  | 745 279 |
| Treasurer’s Advance  | 30 000 |
| Interest, Taxes and Administration  | 183 916 |
| Employee Entitlements  | 221 920 |
|  |  |