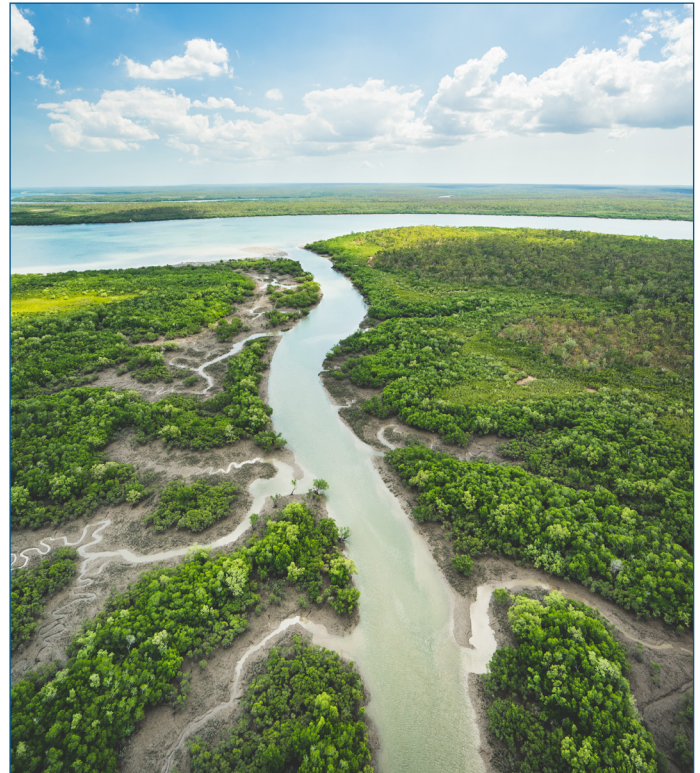


Environmental management

Fact sheet

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Budget 2023 delivers a record \$180 million in environmental protection funding to ensure the Territory's environmental resources are well-managed, protected and productive – now and into the future.



Investing in renewable energy and responding to climate change

The Territory Government continues to prioritise clean energy, with Budget 2023 providing:

- \$10.7 million over three years from 2022-23 and \$3.8 million ongoing for the Office of Climate Change to coordinate the Territory's response to climate change and deliver an enduring and effective climate change response
- \$7.3 million over two years from 2022-23 for the Renewable Remote Power Program (including renewable hydrogen trials) to continue to advance the delivery of clean and reliable electricity to remote communities across the Territory
- \$5.4 million over two years from 2023-24 to progress electricity market reforms and achieve the target of 50% renewable energy by 2030
- \$1.7 million over four years from 2023-24 to collect wind resource data to support renewable energy project feasibility assessments.

Protecting our water

The Territory Government is providing additional funding to effectively manage and ensure water security for all Territorians, including:

- \$13.5 million over three years from 2023-24 to implement the Territory Water Plan to deliver water security for all Territorians and facilitate government's sustainable economic development agenda
- \$2.4 million over three years from 2022-23 to enhance preparedness for marine oil spills and other marine environmental emergencies, and develop the Darwin Harbour Wastewater Management Framework and Darwin Harbour Integrated Report Card
- \$3.95 million over three years from 2023-24 to progress the Adelaide River Off-stream Water Storage project to secure safe, reliable and sustainable water supply for Greater Darwin
- \$3.2 million in Commonwealth funding over three years from 2022-23 for the Western Davenport Hydrostratigraphy project, to improve access to reliable groundwater supply and data in the region.

Strengthening biosecurity

Budget 2023 invests in measures that manage or eliminate the risks that weeds, pests and diseases pose to our economy, our environment and our communities, through:

- \$2.9 million in 2022-23 and \$2 million ongoing from 2023-24 to enhance biosecurity protections by strengthening frontline biosecurity resourcing and implementing new technology to better detect and prevent biosecurity threats
- \$1.7 million over three years from 2022-23 to continue managing weeds and pests under the Federation Funding Agreement for Enhancing National Pest Animal and Weed Management
- \$0.6 million over two years from 2023-24 to resource the Gamba Army to continue efforts to eliminate gamba grass at Casuarina Coastal Reserve, Charles Darwin National Park and Knuckey Lagoon Conservation Reserve.

Managing bushfires and protecting wildlife

The Territory Government continues to invest in wildlife protection and bushfire resilience. Budget 2023 provides:

- \$9 million over three years from 2022-23 to continue the Aboriginal Ranger Grants program, supporting Aboriginal ranger groups to undertake conservation and land and sea management on country, including fire, weed and feral animal management activities
- \$7.1 million in external partnership funding for grants under the Ichthys Project Voluntary Offsets Agreement, supporting the conservation of dugongs, cetaceans and threatened marine species in Top End waters
- \$3.1 million over four years from 2022-23 and \$0.6 million ongoing for additional support for wildfire suppression, installation of an updated digital radio console and gamba grass mitigation
- \$2.5 million ongoing to fund aerial support services through the National Aerial Firefighting Centre Agreement, securing four fixed wing and two rotary wing aircraft to assist in bushfire mitigation and management
- \$0.9 million over two years from 2022-23 for continued development of a biodiversity data repository system.

Prioritising sustainable development

The Territory Government continues to implement measures to maximise economic opportunities for Territorians while protecting and promoting sustainable use of the Territory's natural assets. Budget 2023 invests:

- \$6 million over four years from 2022-23 to implement the recommendations of the Mineral Development Taskforce Final Report, which aims to drive sustainable development of the Territory's mineral resources sector
- \$5 million over four years from 2022-23 to continue to accelerate hydrogen industry development and develop the Territory as a globally attractive renewable energy trade and investment partner
- \$2.5 million over two years to encourage businesses to participate in the circular economy, through two grant programs:
 - the Territory Recycling Grant, providing grants up to \$20,000 towards the purchase of small-scale recycling equipment
 - the Transformational Circular Economy Infrastructure Grant, providing grants of up to \$500,000 for infrastructure projects with a focus on repurposing construction, demolition, food, garden and organic waste
- \$2 million ongoing from 2023-24 to ensure the adequate and timely regulation of the growing onshore petroleum industry
- \$1.9 million ongoing from 2023-24 to enhance the environmental regulator's technical and advisory capabilities and its capacity to undertake assessment, compliance and enforcement activities
- \$1.7 million over two years to accelerate and expand remediation of legacy mines.

Photograph courtesy of the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet