

REBUILDING THE ECONOMY

Fact sheet

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The Territory Government is acting decisively to outpace the nation, harness our unique strengths and build a stronger, more prosperous future for all Territorians.

The 2025 Budget backs business to grow the economy and make the Territory the best place in Australia to do business through tax reforms, workforce support, investment attraction and unlocking gas to deliver energy security.



Backing business

The Territory Government is making the Territory the best place in Australia to do business.

From 1 July 2025, businesses with wage bills between \$2.5 million and \$7.5 million will see their payroll tax bill decrease, saving eligible businesses up to \$68,750 per year. It means the Territory has the highest payroll tax-free threshold in Australia.

The Territory Government has also introduced a payroll tax exemption for wages paid to 3,700 trainees and apprentices, saving businesses thousands of dollars more while encouraging them to invest in growing Territory talent by offering more apprenticeship and trainee positions.

Further, the Territory Government is making it simpler for charities and not-for-profit organisations to claim exemptions from payroll tax and stamp duty, reducing red tape and making it easier to do business in the Territory.

Building a bigger, better workforce

The 2025 Budget includes \$120 million for training and higher education to ensure the skill requirements of the Territory economy are met through responsive training and higher education sectors that are aligned to the needs of Territorians and Territory employers.

The 2025 Budget also includes additional funding of \$2 million per annum in 2025-26 and 2026-27 to attract workers and students to grow the Territory's population and address workforce shortages.

The funding will deliver skilled migration programs, worker attraction and retention activities, ensure timely processing of visa applications, and international education marketing and program delivery to attract and retain international workers and students.

Unlocking gas

The Beetaloo Sub-basin has moved towards commercial production, including gas sales agreements for Tamboran Resources and Empire Energy to supply gas to the Territory Government.

Empire Energy commenced drilling on its full-scale pilot development well in November 2024. In 2025, Empire is due to commence construction of the Carpentaria gas plant and associated infrastructure, and is aiming to begin gas deliveries in 2025.

Tamboran Resources commenced its Shenandoah South pilot project drilling program in August 2024 and in February 2025, announced it had successfully completed stimulation activities. Tamboran remains on schedule to deliver appraisal gas to market in 2026.

These projects will fuel growth, create jobs and provide competitively priced gas for the Territory's electricity generation for years to come.

Building a new home

The Territory Government is delivering the most generous home builder program in the country with targeted incentives to grow the population and get the workforce the Territory needs to rebuild the economy. The scheme includes:

- the HomeGrown Territory grant, which provides \$50,000 for first home buyers building or buying a new home, or \$10,000 for buying an established home
- the FreshStart new home grant, which provides \$30,000 to buy or build a new home. In an Australian first, this includes anyone who has previously owned or currently owns a home.

The Territory Government is also supporting land release to boost construction and increase home ownership. The 2025 Budget includes \$49.6 million to deliver district-level enabling infrastructure to facilitate the Holtze land release area to create Greater Darwin's next urban suburb.

The 2025 budget also includes \$11 million for headworks infrastructure to support the development of residential land in Farrar West.

Attracting investment

The 2025 Budget includes \$6.4 million for the Office of the Territory Coordinator, established to drive economic growth in the Territory, and accelerate private sector jobs and opportunities for all Territorians. As an independent statutory role, the Territory Coordinator will:

- fast-track major investments, making it easier for investors to bring big ideas to life
- streamline approvals across government, removing roadblocks to economic progress
- boost the Territory's competitiveness, attracting large-scale investments to fuel growth and development.

The Territory Coordinator will ensure compliance remains a priority, and will work closely with regulatory agencies so projects meet necessary requirements without unnecessary delays. This will ensure the Territory remains competitive in attracting and securing major investments.

The government has also passed the Petroleum, Planning and Water Legislation Amendment Bill, paving the way for certainty and investment in the Territory's economy.

The changes remove the ability for third parties to seek merits review of decisions made under the petroleum, planning and water acts. This will reduce uncertainty, delays and disruption to the decision-making process.

Growing the tourism industry

The Territory Government is investing in the tourism sector with funding of \$88.4 million in 2025-26 to accelerate tourism growth in the Territory to drive greater interstate and international visitation, economic activity and investment.

The 2025 Budget provides new funding of \$8 million ongoing from 2025-26 to provide an ongoing sustainable budget for tourism. This includes:

- \$4 million to maintain in-market presence in the Territory's primary western hemisphere markets of the United States, United Kingdom and Germany
- \$1.5 million for cooperative campaigns with key domestic trade partners
- \$1 million for promotional activities in interstate markets to build awareness of the Territory as a holiday destination
- \$1 million to support tourism activities
- \$0.5 million to support continued operation of the Visitor Information Centre at Yulara, and maintain the Visitor Information Centre network in Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.

The 2025 Budget also includes a \$3 million boost to military tourism with an updated Military Heritage Tourism Action Plan. The first stage is the new \$1 million Military History Tourism Grant program to help tourism operators develop new military heritage tourism products, expand existing offerings, and enhance visitor experiences.

In addition, government extended the Territory tourism discount scheme and continued the Visitor Experience Enhancement Program.

Photograph courtesy of Department of Mining and Energy