

# BUDGET 2017-18

*Investing for our Future – Jobs, Children, Community*

## Restoring Trust

Territorians want and deserve a Government they can trust. Trust in Government is the foundation for tackling the challenge of creating jobs, giving our children the best start in life and building safer, stronger communities.

### Trust and Integrity Reform

Budget 2017 provides \$3 million per annum to establish and operate an Independent Commission Against Corruption that will have the power to investigate allegations of corruption, and establish a clear and transparent integrity framework.

Budget 2017 also provides the resources to progress the Government's reform agenda; including:

- parliamentary reform; and
- an inquiry into political donations.

### Fulfilling our Promises

The Territory Government is delivering its 2016 election commitments. The Government has fully funded:

- \$1.1 billion for a 10-year Remote Housing Investment Package;
- \$426 million in 2017 for government school budgets, including an additional \$20 million for school resourcing. A further \$63 million is provided to meet centralised school costs;
- \$56.4 million over four years towards the Building Better Schools commitment, which provides \$300 000 to every school for important upgrades;
- \$50 million for the Recreational Fishing Infrastructure Package;

- \$50 million for an Iconic National Indigenous Art Gallery in Alice Springs;
- \$30 million to establish an Indigenous Arts Trail across the Territory;
- \$26 million to construct a new Palmerston police station including a community hall;
- \$20 million for an Iconic National Indigenous Cultural Centre in Alice Springs;
- \$17.2 million to reintroduce the Banned Drinker Register and establish a best practice health-based alcohol harm reduction framework; and
- \$5 million in 2017-18, increasing to \$15.75 million by 2019-20, for police resourcing and recruitment to meet Government's commitment for police officers.

### Getting Territorians into Jobs

Budget 2017 delivers a \$250 million economic stimulus program across 2017-18 and 2018-19, including:

- \$129 million to fast-track major infrastructure projects across the Territory;
- \$14 million for additional minor infrastructure projects;
- \$60 million for additional repairs and maintenance works across the Territory, including \$5 million for urban social housing;

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- increasing funding to a total of \$30 million overall, for the Immediate Work Grants program for repairs, maintenance and improvements to community facilities;
- \$10 million to commence works on the \$120 million City Deals project;
- \$10 million in incentive funding for social housing headleasing projects in Darwin, Palmerston and Alice Springs;
- \$5 million in Security Systems Assistance Grants for Territory businesses; and
- an additional \$2 million to increase the Urban and Regional Oval Lights Program, to a total of \$3.5 million in 2017-18 and 2018-19.

## Making Informed Decisions

Government is focused on protecting the Territory's unique natural assets and implementing a robust environmental protection regime.

In 2016, the Territory Government introduced a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing and established a Hydraulic Fracturing Taskforce with \$3 million in funding to support the scientific inquiry panel and public consultations.

Expert reference panels have also been established to provide analysis and advice to support:

- the Early Childhood Development Strategic Plan; and
- the development of a Roadmap to Renewables Report.

## Listening to the Community

In cooperation with Aboriginal Territorians, government is embarking on the most significant empowering of Aboriginal people since Self-Government. A 10-year plan to drive the Local Decision Making agenda for Aboriginal Territorians through government partnering with Aboriginal representative organisations and Aboriginal people is being developed.

The Local Decision Making agenda will be progressed for housing, local government, education and training, health, looking after children, and law and justice.

## Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory

The Territory Government has provided \$27 million towards the jointly funded Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory with the Commonwealth.

The Territory Government has welcomed the release of the Royal Commission's interim report, which identifies work already undertaken to address the cycle of crime through the government's youth justice system overhaul.

The Territory Government continues working to meet the Royal Commission's requests for internal documents, witness statements and witness appearances.