

Budget Overview

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Acknowledgements

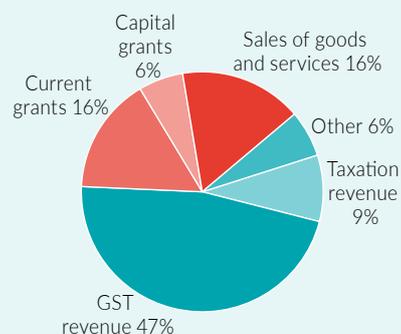
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Fiscal Outlook

Revenue

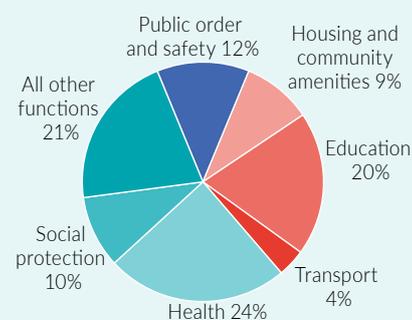
Territory revenue is expected to be \$6.2 billion for the non financial public sector in 2017-18.



Source: Department of Treasury and Finance

Expenses

In 2017-18, Territory expenses for the non financial public sector are estimated to be \$6.7 billion. The key functions of health, education, and public order and safety comprise 55% of total expenses, compared to 50% in 2016-17.



Source: Department of Treasury and Finance

Total Infrastructure Payments

	2017-18	
	Program	Cash
	\$M	\$M
Budget sector		
Capital works	1 873	967
Grants		219
Repairs and maintenance		297
Infrastructure-related		3
Total		1 486
Government owned corporations		267
Total infrastructure payments		1 753

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance

In the development of the 2017-18 Budget the Territory government has been presented with a number of immediate fiscal challenges, namely:

- a significant reduction in estimated GST revenues totalling \$2 billion over the forward estimates;
- the need to fund ongoing demand for government services, predominantly in the areas of education and community services; and
- moderating economic conditions in the Territory, requiring increased infrastructure spending to stimulate the economy.

These challenges have resulted in a significant worsening in all fiscal aggregates from those projected at the time of the August 2016 Pre-Election Fiscal Outlook Report (PEFO) and the 2016-17 Mid-Year Report, with the fiscal balance in 2017-18 projected to be a \$1.3 billion deficit.

The 2017-18 Budget includes a significant infrastructure spend of \$1.75 billion to stimulate economic activity and employment. However, to address the significant reduction in revenue in an economically responsible manner, the Government has introduced a number of Budget improvement measures to fund new decisions and limit the impact on net debt. As a result, average annual general government sector expenses growth is expected to be minimal (0.1%) over the forward estimates. Nevertheless, the projected operating and fiscal deficits will see net debt rise to \$5.5 billion by 2020-21, with the net debt to revenue ratio also increasing.

Key Fiscal Aggregates

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
	Estimate	Budget	Forward Estimate		
	\$M	\$M	\$M	\$M	\$M
General government sector					
Net operating balance	- 50	- 503	- 509	- 561	- 556
Non financial public sector					
Fiscal balance	- 552	- 1 312	- 859	- 611	- 572
Net debt	2 358	3 604	4 404	4 939	5 479
Net debt to revenue (%)	36	58	73	80	87

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance

The following table highlights the cumulative effect on the operating and fiscal balance deficits of GST reductions and associated borrowing costs since PEFO and indicates that, in the absence of these reductions, surpluses would have been achieved by 2019-20 in the general government and non financial public sectors.

Cumulative GST Reductions and Associated Borrowing Costs

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total
	Estimate	Budget	Forward Estimate			
	\$M	\$M	\$M	\$M	\$M	\$M
GST reduction	- 80	- 397	- 444	- 549	- 581	- 2 051
Additional net borrowing costs		- 13	- 39	- 65	- 94	- 210
Total	- 80	- 410	- 483	- 614	- 675	- 2 261

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance

Budget Highlights

Key initiatives in the 2017-18 Budget include:

- \$1.75 billion infrastructure spend that incorporates;
 - \$250 million over two years in economic stimulus packages including support for the Government’s economic transformation plan; and
 - \$106 million in 2017-18 for remote housing as part of Government’s \$1.1 billion 10-year Remote Housing Investment Package;
- \$80.1 million in 2017-18, to support the Department of Health’s five-year \$259 million Core Clinical Systems Renewal Program;
- \$44.9 million over four years for a new police information management system;
- \$17.2 million to reintroduce the Banned Drinker Register;
- \$15.5 million in 2016-17 and \$31 million from 2017-18 for additional school resourcing;
- \$15 million in 2016-17 and \$5.6 million from 2017-18 to meet increased demand pressures for out of home care services and youth justice reform;
- \$5 million in 2017-18, increasing to \$15.75 million by 2019-20, for police resourcing and recruitment;
- \$18.3 million to improve the youth justice diversion system;
- \$6.2 million for the Domestic and Family Violence Reduction Strategy; and
- \$5 million in 2017-18 and \$3.1 million from 2018-19 for the justice and correctional services system.

Government’s Fiscal Strategy

Sustainable Service Provision

Short-term target: Maintain an improving operating position over the budget cycle by ensuring growth in general government operating expenses is declining in real terms.

Medium-term target: Achieve a general government sector net operating surplus that ensures new general government capital investment is funded through revenues rather than borrowings.

Infrastructure for Economic and Community Development

Short-term target: Stimulate the economy by maintaining infrastructure spending at the general government sector at least twice the level of depreciation on average over the immediate Budget cycle to 2019-20.

Medium-term target: When the economy returns to normal levels, maintain infrastructure at the general government sector at appropriate levels by investing at least the level of depreciation expenses.

Competitive Tax Environment

Target: Maintain a competitive tax environment that encourages investment, creates jobs and attracts business to the Territory, while raising sufficient revenue to contribute to funding Government’s service delivery requirements.

Prudent Management of Debt and Liabilities

Short-term target: Achieve an improving fiscal balance in the non financial public sector over the budget cycle.

Medium to long-term target: The Territory’s non financial public sector net debt as a percentage of revenue returns toward the long-term average of 40 per cent.

GST Revenue

GST revenue is the largest single fiscal transfer from the Commonwealth, representing around half of the Territory’s total revenue.

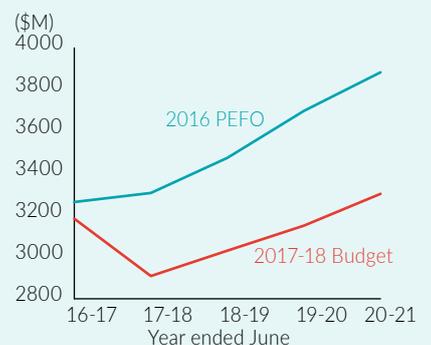
In 2017-18, the Territory is expected to receive \$2909 million in GST revenue, a \$397 million decrease from the estimate of \$3306 million at the time of the PEFO.

The estimated decrease is driven by a reduction in the Territory’s GST relativity from 5.28450 to 4.66024 and a reduction in the Territory’s share of the national population, partially offset by an increase in the GST pool, although lower than previously forecast.

This reduction flows through to all forward years and from 2017-18 the total reduction in GST revenue is around \$2 billion compared to PEFO estimates.

While GST revenue is forecast to increase in absolute terms over the forward estimates from 2017-18, it is from a lower base and projected to remain below 2016-17 levels over the three-year period to 2019-20, significantly hampering the Territory’s capacity to meet its fiscal targets.

Variations to GST Revenue since PEFO



Source: Department of Treasury and Finance

Economic Outlook

Ichthys LNG Project

The \$US34 billion Ichthys liquefied natural gas (LNG) project comprises three significant elements including a state-of-the-art onshore processing facility at Bladin Point in Darwin, some of the largest offshore facilities in the industry, and an 890 kilometre pipeline connecting them to an onshore processing facility for a projected operational life of at least 40 years.

Construction of the onshore processing facility commenced in 2012 and is the largest ever private investment in the Territory, providing a significant contribution to economic activity over the last five years.

The peak workforce on the project's construction phase has been over 8000 people with around 40 per cent being Territory residents.

The 40-year operational and export phase of the project will continue to make a significant contribution to the Territory economy including an ongoing workforce of 350 to 400.

MyFuel NT

The Territory Government is developing the first Territory-wide real-time mandatory fuel price report scheme, MyFuel NT.

The scheme will empower Territory motorists to easily compare fuel prices and shop around for the lowest local fuel price via an online web portal that will also make fuel price data freely available to third parties.

MyFuel NT will be managed by Northern Territory Consumer Affairs and is expected to be fully operational in late 2017.

Territory Key Economic Indicators (%)

	2015-16a	2016-17e	2017-18f	2018-19f	2019-20f	2020-21f
Gross state product ¹	2.7	1.0	1.0	5.1	2.0	2.1
State final demand ¹	- 12.5	0.2	- 2.8	- 5.0	0.1	1.5
Population ²	0.5	0.3	- 0.3	0.3	0.8	1.2
Employment ³	1.4	2.9	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.2
Unemployment rate ⁴	4.2	3.6	4.0	4.2	4.3	4.3
Consumer price index ³	0.1	0.1	0.4	1.3	1.9	2.4
Wage price index ³	2.2	2.1	1.9	2.0	2.3	2.6

a: actual; e: estimate; f: forecast

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

² As at December, annual percentage change.

³ Year ended June, year-on-year percentage change.

⁴ Year average.

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance, Australian Bureau of Statistics

The Territory economy has grown considerably over the past decade. Total gross state product (GSP) has grown from \$16.9 billion in 2006-07 to \$23.6 billion in 2015-16, including growth of 2.7 per cent in 2015-16. Economic growth in the Territory is forecast to be moderate in 2016-17 and 2017-18 as the Territory transitions from investment-led growth to predominantly export-driven growth.

The moderate level of growth expected for 2017-18 and 2018-19 reflects a return to more historical levels of private investment compared to the record levels experienced in recent years as a result of a number of major projects, particularly the Ichthys LNG project. Economic growth in 2016-17 and 2017-18 will be supported by an increase in public investment, including the Territory Government's \$1.75 billion infrastructure spend.

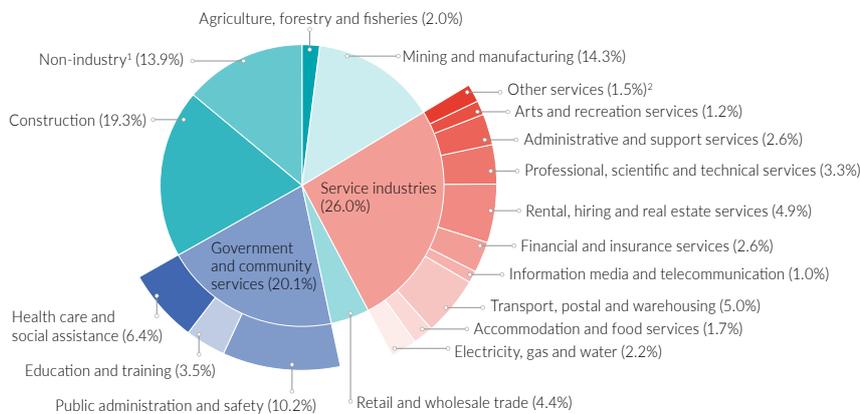
Economic growth in the outer years is expected to be driven by a significant increase in exports, reflecting full production at the Ichthys LNG project, as well as a moderate increase in consumption growth. In 2019-20 and 2020-21 the Territory economy is expected to stabilise, with growth forecast to be 2.0 per cent and 2.1 per cent, respectively.

Population growth over 2016 is expected to remain subdued, continuing the trend from 2015 and weakening to 0.3 per cent as a consequence of historically high levels of migration outflows as the economy adjusts to a general slowdown in the resources sector.

Population is expected to decline in 2017, with a forecast change of -0.3 per cent, as a significant proportion of resident construction workers are expected to depart the Territory with the Ichthys LNG project transitioning from the construction to operational phase during the year. Population growth from 2018 is then forecast to steadily increase to 1.2 per cent in 2020.

There are similar expectations for the labour force forecasts over the forward estimates period, largely following population trends, with moderate conditions for employment in 2017-18 and 2018-19 before stabilising closer to long-term trend levels by 2020-21. Strong labour force estimates in 2016-17 reflect the timing of the peak construction workforce at the Ichthys LNG project.

Contributions to GSP, 2015-16



GSP: gross state product

1 Non-industry components of GSP include ownership of dwellings, taxes less subsidies and statistical discrepancy.

2 Other services components of GSP include personal services and general repair and maintenance activities, however excludes units engaged in providing buildings or dwelling repair and maintenance services.

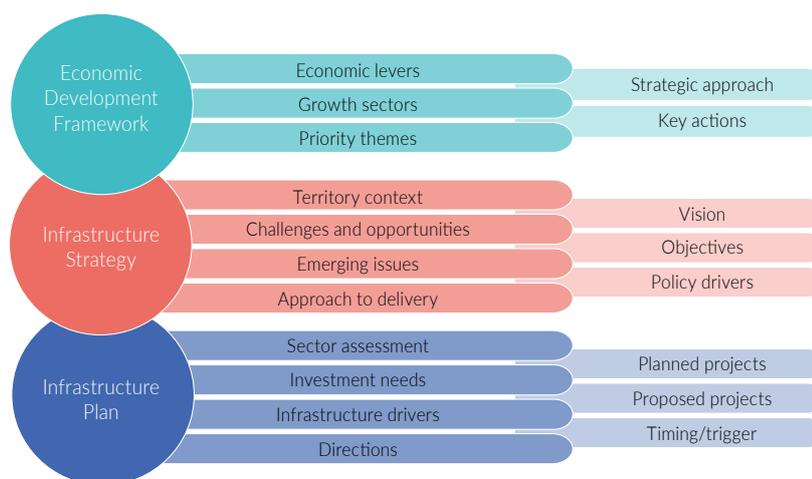
Source: ABS, Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, Cat. No. 5220.0

Northern Territory Economic Development Framework

The Economic Development Framework is the result of extensive consultation involving a range of stakeholders following a series of forums, workshops and economic summits across the Territory between October 2016 and March 2017.

The Economic Development Framework provides a strategy for the Territory's long-term economic growth, which will create employment and business opportunities, and underpin the standard of living for all Territorians, supported by effective policy settings in a more diverse Territory economy.

The economic summits process resulted in the development of the Infrastructure Strategy, the 10-year Infrastructure Plan, and a range of other supporting government strategies and policies.



Stakeholder consultation identified six levers that will be used to influence and grow the Territory economy and employment opportunities. These levers are natural resources, people, capital, connectivity, enterprise and innovation, and liveability.

The final versions of the framework, strategy and plan will be published in May 2017, supported by an implementation strategy, including key milestones.

First Home Buyers

To improve housing affordability the Territory Government introduced a substantial increase in first home buyer tax relief in September 2016, resulting in a maximum stamp duty concession of \$23 928 for established homes valued at \$650 000 or less, through the First Home Owner Discount incentive.

This measure will help stimulate the residential property market and complements the First Home Owner Grant providing \$26 000 to first home buyers, which encourages the construction and purchase of a new home.

In the year to February 2017, the number of first home buyer commitments increased by 13.6 per cent to 533, which is likely attributed to the recently introduced Government incentive.

Defence

Defence is a significant contributor to the Territory economy and a continued defence presence in the Territory was reinforced by the 2016 Defence White Paper, which outlines the Commonwealth's long-term plans for strengthened capability in northern Australia.

Current defence investments in the Territory include:

- \$470 million for the New Air Combat Capability Facilities Project at Royal Australian Air Force Base Tindal, near Katherine (commenced in early 2017); and
- \$550 million for redevelopment works at Larrakeyah Barracks and HMAS Coonawarra in Darwin (expected to commence in early 2018).

Creating Jobs and Buying Local

Delivering for Local Business

The Territory Government spends around \$3 billion on goods and services annually. The Government's Buy Local Plan has increased the minimum local content weighting on contracts to 30 per cent and includes a 'Value for Territory' criteria so decisions aren't based on price alone.

The 2017-18 Budget supports buying local through \$0.2 million to fund an independent industry advocate of the Buy Local Plan. The advocate will be supported by staff and have the capacity to conduct spot audits across government.

The 2017-18 Budget also supports and delivers jobs for Territory local businesses and tradies through:

- \$30 million for the Immediate Work Grants program, helping to improve community facilities;
- \$16.3 million to expand the Home Improvement Scheme, providing home owner-occupiers with the opportunity to do minor improvements, and repairs and maintenance on their home using Territory small businesses;
- \$7.9 million for Home Owner Grants, a voucher program for first home owner-occupiers to undertake minor improvements on their new homes by Territory small businesses;
- \$7.9 million for the Small Business Champions Unit and to support the business round tables; and
- \$1 million in additional Business Innovation Support Initiatives grants to enable local businesses to undertake research and development of new products, processes or services.

The 2017-18 Budget supports job creation through a range of initiatives including the economic stimulus program, the Buy Local Plan and initiatives to favourably position the Territory as a place to do business and facilitate private sector investment in key projects and industries.

Economic Management

The 2017-18 Budget delivers a significant economic boost across the Territory through a \$1.75 billion infrastructure spend including a \$250 million economic stimulus program across 2017-18 and 2018-19, which involves a suite of strategically timed initiatives to create jobs for Territorians including:

- \$129 million to fast-track major infrastructure projects across the Territory;
- \$14 million for additional minor infrastructure projects;
- \$10 million to commence works on the \$120 million City Deals project, for the redevelopment and revitalisation of infrastructure in the Darwin and Alice Springs central business districts (CBDs);
- \$30 million for the Immediate Work Grants program for community and incorporated not-for-profit organisations to carry out repairs, maintenance and improvements to facilities;
- \$5 million in Security Systems Assistance Grants for local businesses;
- \$60 million for additional repairs and maintenance works across the Territory, including \$5 million for urban social housing;
- \$10 million in incentive funding for social housing headleasing projects in Darwin, Palmerston and Alice Springs; and
- \$2 million to increase the Urban and Regional Oval Lights Program to \$3.5 million in 2016-17 and 2017-18.

In addition, the 2017-18 Budget provides:

- \$2.2 million for the Strategic Infrastructure and Projects division to continue to support the delivery of major projects and attract private investment;
- \$1.5 million over three years to establish a Canberra-based Territory defence advocate to ensure future defence investment is focused on the Territory; and
- \$1 million for investment attraction processes for a potential water theme park in Darwin and retirement resorts in the Darwin, Darwin rural and Alice Springs areas.

Infrastructure

The 2017-18 Budget provides \$1.75 billion for infrastructure expenditure across the Territory, including the largest investment in roads, substantial investments in housing, works to stimulate the economy, and projects to enhance our quality of life, embrace our culture and provide for our families. Major program highlights include:

- \$733.5 million to upgrade roads and transport infrastructure across the Territory, including \$78 million in partnership with the Commonwealth, to continue upgrading the Arnhem Highway on the Adelaide River floodplain to provide all-weather access, and \$40 million for upgrades to the Buntine Highway;
- \$640.3 million in housing and related works, including \$233 million in partnership with the Commonwealth for new remote Indigenous housing and \$106 million as part of the \$1.1 billion 10-year Remote Housing Investment Package;

- \$196.2 million in health infrastructure to improve the wellbeing of Territorians, including continued upgrades to the Alice Springs, Gove and Royal Darwin hospitals and \$11.1 million for renal services;
- \$141.7 million to improve education facilities, including \$18 million to redevelop and expand Darwin High School with a new central library and fabrication laboratory, and \$6.5 million for a new integrated preschool at the Tennant Creek Primary School;
- \$159 million in projects to support community safety, including \$25.8 million for a new Palmerston police station and \$8 million for a fire station in Katherine;
- \$382.6 million in economic and community infrastructure works, including
 - \$120 million in City Deals for the redevelopment and revitalisation of infrastructure in the Darwin and Alice Springs CBDs; and
 - a \$100 million contribution towards progressing the ship lift facility, including \$5 million to undertake a due-diligence process in 2017-18; and
- \$25 million for a rugby league stadium at Warren Park and \$6.2 million to upgrade sporting facilities in Alice Springs.

Transforming the Territory

The 2017-18 Budget supports the Government's five major projects over the next four years aimed at boosting the Territory economy, creating jobs and transforming the Territory's cities and regions into tourist, business and investment attractions including:

- revitalising Darwin CBD through investment of \$100 million comprising:
 - redevelopment of State Square including an underground carpark and fine arts gallery and moving the bus terminal;
 - building a new museum at Myilly Point; and
 - moving Charles Darwin University students into the CBD;
- a contribution towards a ship lift facility and developing a marine industry park;
- revitalising Alice Springs CBD through investment of \$20 million and a further \$50 million for an Iconic National Indigenous Art Gallery in Alice Springs;
- investment to establish Katherine as a logistics and agribusiness hub of national and international significance; and
- funding to investigate the development of Tennant Creek into a mining and mining services centre.



Tourism

Tourism is a significant driver of the Territory economy. It has a broad impact on many industry sectors and employs a large number of Territorians.

The 2017-18 Budget continues to enhance the Territory's reputation as a great holiday destination, through:

- \$8 million for tourism marketing and promotion, supporting tourism products and sharing our stories with the world;
- \$13 million to support the operation of the NT Major Events Company to attract events to the Territory;
- \$10 million for headworks to support the Darwin luxury hotel development;
- \$7.7 million to support the operation of the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory;
- \$6 million over three years from 2017-18 for infrastructure upgrades to community art galleries, art centres, museums, libraries and keeping places;
- \$5 million over two years from 2016-17 for targeted tourism initiatives aimed at attracting more tourists from China and India;
- \$1.1 million to develop and maintain mountain bike trails in Territory parks and reserves; and
- \$0.7 million to support international carriers flying direct to the Territory.

Delivering for the Bush

Remote Housing

The 2017-18 Budget delivers a \$1.1 billion, 10-year Remote Housing Investment Package to improve housing, create jobs and restore local decision making to the bush through:

- \$500 million as part of the HomeBuild NT program to construct new homes in remote communities, including housing for people who are elderly or have a disability;
- \$200 million to reduce overcrowding in existing dwellings through the provision of additional rooms, granny flats, living and sleeping spaces, shelter and outdoor cooking areas under the Room to Breathe program;
- \$200 million to expand government employee housing to include accommodation for locally recruited remote community government employees; and
- \$200 million for additional repairs and maintenance for remote community houses.

The 2017-18 Budget also provides \$233 million under the National Partnership Agreements on Remote Housing and Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment, to construct new housing, upgrade existing housing and provide associated infrastructure in remote Aboriginal communities in the Territory.

The 2017-18 Budget provides a further \$44.5 million over two years to prepare land and establish electrical, water and sewerage infrastructure to support the Remote Housing Investment Package.

The 2017-18 Budget delivers strategic projects to create jobs, improve infrastructure and encourage investment in regional and remote areas, as well as supporting the Government's Local Decision Making agenda.

Creating Jobs

The 2017-18 Budget supports employment and economic opportunities for remote Territorians through:

- \$7.9 million to continue the Indigenous Jobs Development Fund to support regional councils' core local government service delivery;
- \$3.6 million for Aboriginal employment programs;
- \$2 million to support Indigenous ranger groups with the purchase of vehicles, boats and equipment;
- \$1 million to employ additional Aboriginal interpreters to support the delivery of the Remote Housing Investment Package; and
- \$0.5 million to establish an Indigenous Carbon Unit to provide advice and support to ranger groups and Aboriginal landholders seeking to create sustainable enterprise through carbon abatement and sequestration.

The 2017-18 Budget promotes the Territory as an economic hub for north Australia by providing:

- \$9.9 million over five years to accelerate land resource mapping, to better understand and protect the environment, support regional economic development and de-risk investment, through a strategic and integrated soil, water and biodiversity assessment program;
- \$5.95 million to continue to drive exploration and growth in the Territory's resources sector by providing new precompetitive geoscience data to industry and proactively promoting the Territory's resource potential and investment opportunities;



- \$2.2 million to support coordination and delivery of major government-initiated projects, the delivery of the strategic infrastructure policy and facilitation of private sector major projects;
- \$0.8 million for studies on grazing management strategies that sustainably increase production across the Territory while maintaining optimal land condition;
- \$0.4 million to research improved fertility within the Brahman cattle breed; and
- \$0.4 million to help improve agribusiness certainty, sustainability and profitability through business and risk diversification.

Improving Homelands

The 2017-18 Budget supports homelands across the Territory through:

- \$22.3 million to continue providing municipal and essential services to homelands and outstations;
- \$3 million over three years for repairs and maintenance to improve homeland schools; and
- \$1 million for the Homelands Extra Allowance program, increasing the grant from \$5200 to \$6000 per dwelling per year, to improve health outcomes and enhance living conditions in homelands through investment in housing infrastructure.

Connecting Communities

The 2017-18 Budget ensures Territorians living and working regionally remain connected by upgrading the Territory's road network, in partnership with the Commonwealth. Projects include:

- \$78 million to continue upgrading the Arnhem Highway on the Adelaide River floodplain;
- \$57.4 million to continue upgrades to Keep River Plains Road to support Project Sea Dragon and development of the Ord;
- \$40.1 million for upgrades to the Buntine Highway;
- \$31.25 million to upgrade the Plenty Highway;
- \$25 million to upgrade the Tablelands Highway;
- \$12.5 million for the Barkly Stock Route;
- \$10 million to upgrade Tjukururu Road;
- \$5 million to upgrade the Sandover Highway from Arlparra to the Utopia Health Clinic; and
- \$3.5 million for pavement and seal widening on the Lasseter Highway.

Additionally the 2017-18 Budget provides:

- \$6 million over three years for infrastructure upgrades to community art galleries, art centres, museums, libraries and keeping places;
- \$1.5 million for DriveSafe NT Remote, an Aboriginal driver education and licensing program; and
- \$0.76 million to improve the regional bus program and trial new passenger services in priority regional and remote areas.

Local Decision Making

The 2017-18 Budget supports the Government's Local Decision Making agenda to ensure Aboriginal Territorians make decisions on the things that affect them through:

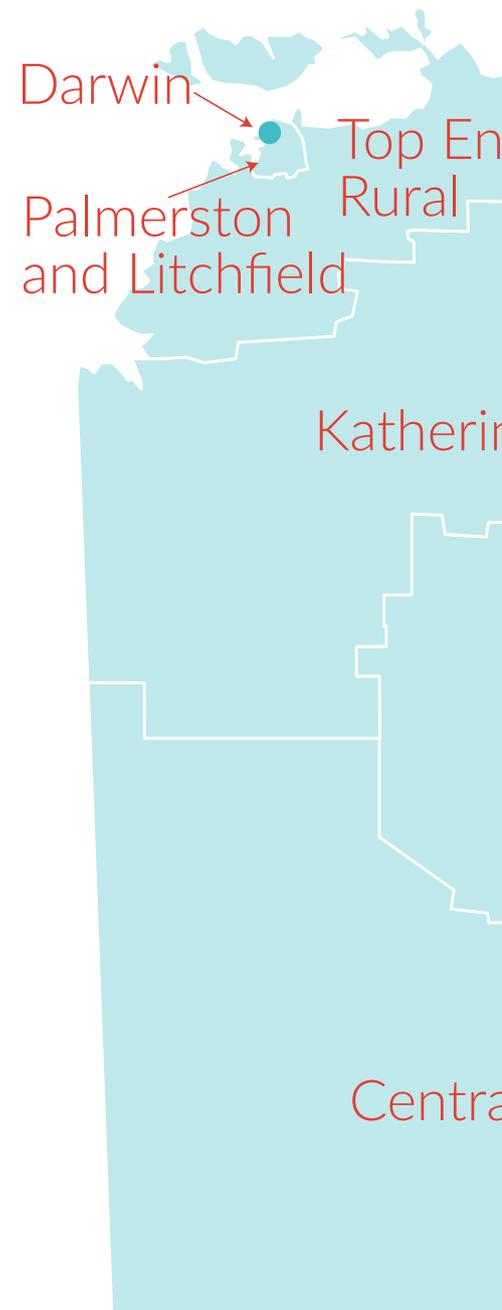
- \$25.9 million to local councils from the Northern Territory Operational Subsidy grants pool;
- \$5 million to establish and operate the Strategic Local Government Infrastructure Fund for projects that improve key infrastructure in remote communities;
- \$46.3 million to implement the Indigenous Education Strategy, including \$37.3 million in Commonwealth funding for remote communities; and
- \$0.8 million for the First Circles Engagement program to support future Indigenous leaders from across the Territory to be the next generation of community leaders.

Remote Aboriginal Economic Development Fund

The 2017-18 Budget supports reducing disadvantage, and enabling and encouraging economic participation by Aboriginal Territorians through \$2 million for the Remote Aboriginal Economic Development Fund comprising:

- \$1 million to support economic development and employment initiatives; and
- \$1 million to support governance and capacity-building initiatives.

The fund supports a range of initiatives such as feasibility studies, one-off or minor capital works projects, development of higher education pathways and innovative remote industry support structures.



Darwin

- \$589.9M for better health
- \$397.9M for better schools and training
- \$281.3M for safer communities
- \$100M for City Deals to redevelop and revitalise infrastructure in Darwin CBD
- \$40.63M for out of home care, child protection and family support services
- \$39.42M to continue stage 1 of the Barneson Boulevard link
- \$27.48M to provide public and school bus transport
- \$25M to redevelop Warren Park to create a home for rugby league
- \$10M for Truck Central design and infrastructure works for the Transport Industry Precinct
- \$10M to support the Darwin luxury hotel project
- \$9.7M to construct a replacement Nightcliff renal facility
- \$7.7M to support the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory
- \$0.5M to commence a market-led investment attraction process for a water theme park

Palmerston and Litchfield

- \$237.5M for better schools and training
- \$201.8M for safer communities
- \$100M contribution towards the construction of the ship lift facility
- \$54.2M for better health
- \$27M for out of home care, child protection and family support services
- \$12M for stages 1 and 2 of the 14-lot industrial subdivision at Darwin Business Park North
- \$9.7M to provide public and school bus transport
- \$7.1M to operate Territory Wildlife Park
- \$2.1M to continue operating Palmerston Water Park

Top End Rural

- \$70.2M under national partnership agreements for new housing, upgrades and property and tenancy management
- \$62M for better schools and training
- \$41.1M for better health
- \$22.79M to continue improving the flood immunity of Port Keats Road at Yellow Creek crossing
- \$21.4M for safer communities
- \$8.6M for out of home care, child protection and family support services
- \$6M in Commonwealth funding for the environmental management of the former Rum Jungle mine site
- \$6M for the Bathurst Island airstrip reconstruction and extension
- \$4.59M to continue upgrades to Kambolgie Creek crossing on Gimbat Road in Kakadu
- \$4.2M to support economic development
- \$0.77M to support the Indigenous Community Marine Ranger Program

Katherine

- \$121.4M for better schools and training
- \$91.9M under national partnership agreements for new housing, upgrades and property and tenancy management
- \$58.8M for better health
- \$57.41M to continue to upgrade Keep River Plains Road to support Project Sea Dragon and the development of the Ord
- \$55.9M for safer communities
- \$40.08M in Territory and Commonwealth funding for widening and extending the seal on the Buntine Highway
- \$7.3M to support economic development
- \$2.45M for Nitmiluk National Park infrastructure upgrades as part of the four-year \$10M program
- investment to establish Katherine as a logistics and agribusiness hub of national and international significance

Central Australia

- \$334.55M for better health
- \$184.8M for better schools and training
- \$150.36M for safer communities
- \$72M under national partnership agreements for new housing, upgrades and property and tenancy management
- \$41.23M in Territory and Commonwealth funding for the Northern Australian Roads Program
- \$39M for out of home care, child protection and family support services



East Arnhem

- \$119.9M for better schools and training
- \$62.2M for better health
- \$61.7M under national partnership agreements for new housing, upgrades and property and tenancy management
- \$32.4M for safer communities
- \$11.36M for out of home care, child protection and family support services
- \$2.1M to support economic development
- \$2M to widen the seal at Milingimbi airstrip
- \$0.84M to provide school bus transport
- \$0.39M to support the Indigenous Community Marine Ranger Program including training based in Nhulunbuy

Barkly

- \$64M for better schools and training
- \$37.5M in Territory and Commonwealth funding for the Beef Roads Program
- \$31.67M for better health
- \$23.8M for housing and infrastructure investment in Arlparra and Elliott
- \$21.67M for safer communities
- \$5M for stage 1 of the Sandover Highway upgrades to extend the seal to the Utopia health clinic
- \$5M to upgrade Purkiss Reserve sporting facilities
- \$4.77M for out of home care, child protection and family support services
- \$2.8M to support economic development
- \$2M to provide entry statements along the Stuart Highway into Tennant Creek
- investigating the development of Tennant Creek into a mining and mining services centre

Territory Wide

- \$1.75B infrastructure spend including \$250M for economic stimulus packages
- \$1.1B over 10 years for the Remote Housing Investment Package
- \$321.7M for better health
- \$259M over five years, including \$80.1M in 2017-18, for the Core Clinical Systems Renewal Program
- \$140.4M over five years from 2016-17 to implement the Territory Government Housing Strategy
- \$97.4M to provide municipal and essential services to Aboriginal communities, homelands and outstations
- \$73.6M to support economic development
- \$60M additional repairs and maintenance funding as part of the economic stimulus program
- \$45M over four years, including \$8.6M in 2017-18, for a new policing management system
- \$37.6M for safer communities
- \$30M for Immediate Work Grants for repairs and upgrades to community facilities
- \$27.5M for better schools and training
- \$17.9M for grants to support sports in the Territory, including the Sport Voucher Scheme
- \$14.2M to continue to support the headlease rental initiative of the Real Housing for Growth plan
- \$12.66M in Commonwealth funding for additional teacher housing in remote locations
- \$6M over three years for a Land Management and Conservation Fund
- \$6M over three years for upgrades to community art galleries, art centres, museums, libraries and keeping places
- \$5M for the Strategic Local Government Infrastructure Fund
- \$3M to establish an Independent Commission Against Corruption
- \$0.5M for investment attraction process for retirement villages in Darwin, Darwin rural, and Alice Springs

- \$20M for City Deals to redevelop and revitalise infrastructure in the Alice Springs CBD
- \$6.2M for sporting infrastructure
- \$6M to replace the Alice Springs women's shelter
- \$5M to support economic development
- \$2.27M to establish and operate an Alcoota Megafauna Fossil Exhibition in Alice Springs
- \$1.5M to invest in the Alice Springs Centre for Excellence in Solar Energy

Investing in Children

Building Better Schools

The 2017-18 Budget invests \$141.7 million in school infrastructure across the Territory, including:

- \$56.4 million over four years for the Building Better Schools commitment, which will provide \$300 000 to every school in the Territory for important upgrades;
- \$34.1 million for repairs and maintenance to schools across the Territory, including an additional \$1 million for repairs and maintenance to homeland centres;
- \$18 million for the redevelopment of the Bullocky Point Education Precinct, with a new central library and fabrication laboratory at Darwin High School;
- \$9 million for the construction of shared community facilities to support primary schools in Zuccoli;
- \$6.5 million to construct a new integrated early learning centre at the Tennant Creek Primary School;
- \$6 million for stage 1 of the master plan for Ludmilla Primary School; and
- \$3.5 million to acquire new transportable classrooms for government schools.

The 2017-18 Budget is also supporting schools through:

- \$1 million to support and develop school business managers through enhancing training programs and other support mechanisms; and
- \$0.4 million for training programs for teachers and emerging and aspiring principals, including the Early Years of Teaching program that supports senior and experienced teachers to pass on skills to early career teachers.

The 2017-18 Budget places children at the heart of government decision making, investing in programs and services that will deliver long-term, generational change and help ensure Territory children are ready for school from day one.

Putting Children First

The 2017-18 Budget supports and expands on activities, programs and services for children and their families to deliver results across the Territory, including:

- \$7.1 million to continue the Back to School Payment scheme, which provides \$150 per student to assist parents and families with back-to-school expenses such as uniforms, stationery, books, excursions, camps and elective activities;
- \$7.1 million to provide nationally accredited vocational education and training (VET) and support for employment pathways in schools;
- \$6 million to continue the early childhood services subsidy for long day care, three-year-old kindergarten and family day care services to offset the cost of child care for parents and families;
- \$1 million in 2017-18, increasing to \$5 million by 2019-20, to fulfil the Government's election commitment to expand the Nurse-Family Partnership Program to five additional locations over the next five years; and
- \$0.15 million to extend Aboriginal family care for Aboriginal children.

Keeping Kids Engaged

The 2017-18 Budget supports children to stay engaged in school through:

- \$8 million for early intervention and support to tackle challenging behaviours and support students with additional needs and mental health issues through an interagency strategy that strengthens partnerships with external organisations to improve student support from allied health professionals and, in particular, increase access to assessment and diagnosis;
- \$2 million to implement a Healthy Life Creative Life program to improve education outcomes in the Katherine and Barkly regions through an integrated program of sport, arts, social and emotional learning, culture, language and learning on country for remote secondary students at risk of disengaging from school and their communities;



- \$3 million to establish a referral dual pathway to provide an alternate service response to prevent vulnerable children and their families from entering the statutory child protection system;
- \$1.75 million for expanded after-hours youth activities in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek to improve the outcomes of youth through tailored engagement programs; and
- \$0.75 million to expand rehabilitation services to tackle youth substance misuse.

Education

The 2017-18 Budget resources schools and empowers teachers, principals and parents to deliver the best possible education for Territory students through:

- \$426 million in 2017 for global budgets in government schools, including an additional \$20 million for school resourcing. A further \$63 million is provided to meet centralised school costs;
- \$233.4 million in operational and capital subsidies for non-government schools across the Territory, including \$174.2 million Commonwealth Students First funding;
- \$46.3 million to implement the Indigenous Education Strategy, including \$37.3 million in Commonwealth funding for remote communities. Key initiatives include:
 - \$10.1 million to continue and expand the Families as First Teachers program to improve the developmental and learning outcomes of vulnerable and disadvantaged children from birth to three years of age;
 - \$4.2 million to expand the Employment Pathways program;
 - \$3.7 million to support students accessing secondary boarding schools; and
 - \$2.3 million towards professional learning and accreditation for Aboriginal assistant teachers;
- \$1.2 million to continue to improve educational outcomes of all middle years students and ensure the effective transition between primary, middle and senior school, to better prepare students to succeed;
- \$0.5 million to upskill teachers in digital literacy and introduce computer coding training into primary and secondary schools; and
- \$0.3 million to expand enterprise education and innovation programs within schools to ensure students across the Territory are able to access advice and training in new technologies and emerging industries.

Training to be Work Ready

The 2017-18 Budget provides \$101 million to help get Territorians work ready and ensure the skill requirements of the Territory economy are met through responsive programs aligned to the needs of Territory businesses, industries and workers, through:

- \$53.4 million, including Commonwealth funding, to registered training organisations to deliver skills training to Territorians; and
- \$22.4 million to registered training organisations to support training for apprentices and trainees.



Early Childhood Strategic Development Plan

The 2017-18 Budget provides \$1.2 million to support an Early Childhood Strategic Development Plan that will recognise the importance of the early years (before birth up to age eight) in shaping a child's health, education and wellbeing outcomes and help Territory families.

The plan will be a future-focused 10-year strategy that supports forward-thinking decisions, comprehensive support systems and strong partnerships for our children. Those most vulnerable will be better supported through their transition into education and onwards through their lives.

An expert reference panel has been convened to provide analysis and advice in the preparation of the Early Childhood Strategic Development Plan and provide expert advice to the Government.

The 14-member panel is made up of nine early childhood experts from the Territory and five from around Australia.

Safer Communities

Alcohol and Other Drugs

The 2017-18 Budget supports alcohol harm reduction through \$17.2 million to establish a health-based harm reduction framework, including the Banned Drinker Register that will commence on 1 September 2017, which will incorporate incentivised treatment options for problem drinkers and specialised treatment beds in both Alice Springs and Darwin.

The approach will focus on supply and demand reduction as well as harm minimisation through:

- specialist assessment of a person's immediate clinical, physical, psychological and social needs;
- withdrawal services, where an appropriate method is prescribed and may include taking medication at home or completing a residential care program at a specialised withdrawal facility; and
- treatment options including therapeutic programs to assist in changing behaviours and reconnecting with family and the community to overcome dependence.

The Government has also commissioned an expert panel to review alcohol policies and legislation, with a report and recommendations to be delivered to government in late September 2017.

The expert panel's recommendations will inform the development of the Government's alcohol harm reduction strategy and legislative reform agenda.

The 2017-18 Budget also commits \$0.75 million to expand rehabilitation services to tackle youth substance misuse.

The 2017-18 Budget provides \$876 million to reduce crime, support our police and emergency services, strengthen law and order with a focus on youth justice, and protect vulnerable Territorians.

Safety, Law and Order

Key safety, law and order initiatives in the 2017-18 Budget include:

- \$25.8 million to build a new Palmerston police station, including a community hall;
- \$5 million in 2017-18, increasing to \$15.75 million by 2019-20, for police resourcing and recruitment to meet Government's commitments for police officers on the beat;
- \$8 million to construct a new Katherine fire station;
- \$2 million to expand and maintain the closed circuit television (CCTV) network;
- \$1.5 million for the DriveSafe NT Remote program;
- \$1 million for additional court support services; and
- \$0.5 million increase to the Victims of Crime fund.

The 2017-18 Budget provides \$45 million over four years, including \$8.6 million in 2017-18, for Police Real-time Online Management Information System replacement project to improve the delivery of law enforcement and emergency services by providing a contemporary and flexible core policing system to support frontline policing operations, improve police officer safety and increase community confidence.

Youth Justice

The Territory Government has welcomed the release of the interim report from the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory, which identifies work already undertaken to address the cycle of crime through the Government's youth justice reforms.

The Territory Government continues working to meet the Royal Commission's requests for internal documents, witness statements and witness appearances. The 2017-18 Budget also commits \$27 million towards the cost of the Royal Commission.



The 2017-18 Budget supports youth justice reform through \$18.28 million to improve the youth justice diversion system including:

- \$8.05 million to support youth outreach and re-engagement;
- \$4.95 million for youth diversion including boot camps;
- \$4.86 million for bail support programs; and
- \$0.42 million to establish a legislative framework for the development of a contemporary youth justice and rehabilitation system, including an independent oversight mechanism.

Other changes already implemented in relation to youth justice reform include:

- passing legislation to ban spit hoods and restraint chairs; and
- recruitment and training of 25 new Youth Justice Officers in Darwin and Alice Springs.

The 2017-18 Budget also provides \$22 million to undertake urgent rectification works at existing youth detention facilities and to establish youth bail support accommodation facilities including:

- \$11.5 million for youth bail support accommodation at Alice Springs;
- \$4.7 million for rectification works at Don Dale Youth Detention Centre;
- \$2.6 million for youth bail support accommodation across the Territory;
- \$1.2 million for youth bail support accommodation at Darwin; and
- \$0.9 million for rectification works at Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre.

Improving Correctional Services

The 2017-18 Budget delivers additional funding for correctional services to improve outcomes and reduce recidivism rates, including:

- \$2.1 million to expand the COMMIT program targeted at reducing incarceration and recidivism rates;
- \$1.85 million for the Work Not Play program;
- \$1.1 million for court and medical escorts; and
- \$0.5 million for the Community Support Work program.

Putting Children First

Budget 2017-18 invests in Territory children to build stronger families and safer communities, including:

- \$5.59 million to support and improve out of home care services;
- \$3 million to establish a referral dual pathway to provide an alternate service response to prevent vulnerable children and their families from entering the statutory child protection system;
- \$0.38 million for three dedicated positions to transition children from care to independent living arrangements; and
- \$0.15 million to extend Aboriginal family care for Aboriginal children.

Keeping Families Safe

The 2017-18 Budget invests in strategies and infrastructure to reduce domestic and family violence and help Territorians remain safe through:

- \$6.21 million to support the Domestic and Family Violence Reduction Strategy;
- \$6 million for the replacement of the Alice Springs women's shelter;
- \$3 million to create the Alice Springs Domestic Violence Court, within the Alice Springs local court, to improve the safety, experience and outcomes for people affected by domestic and family violence;
- \$1.75 million to expand after-hours youth activities in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek;
- \$1 million to establish a remote women's safe house in Galiwin'ku; and
- \$0.18 million to develop a sexual violence prevention and response framework, and to work with Our Watch to develop evidence-based strategies to prevent family violence.



Healthy Territorians

Renal Services

The 2017-18 Budget provides infrastructure to support the increase in demand for renal services including:

- \$9.7 million to establish a purpose-built Darwin Renal Centre, replacing Nightcliff Renal Unit to increase the operational capacity; and
- \$1.4 million to establish two renal ready rooms to increase access to dialysis in remote communities.

The investment will increase the number of chairs across the Territory by 34 (from 204 to 238) including seven in Darwin and 27 in remote communities.

Territory Government's 10-year renal services strategy is also nearing completion. The strategy will focus on early intervention and having renal care closer to home for remote patients.

Nurse-Family Partnership Program

The 2017-18 Budget provides \$1 million in 2017-18, increasing to \$5 million by 2019-20, to fulfil the Government's election commitment to expand the Nurse-Family Partnership Program – nurse home visits – to five additional locations over the next five years.

The commitment includes an extra 30 child and family nurses and 15 Aboriginal family support workers to support vulnerable children and families and, once operational in the five locations, will deliver services to more than 500 children and families per year.

The 2017-18 Budget commits \$1.6 billion to deliver improved health services and infrastructure, including funding to complete the construction and commissioning of the Palmerston Regional Hospital, and deliver a positron emission tomography (PET) scanner and cyclotron at Royal Darwin Hospital.

Hospital Services

The 2017-18 Budget provides funding to commission the \$170 million Palmerston Regional Hospital, which is on track to open its doors in 2018. The hospital will be one of Australia's most contemporary health facilities and provide a wide range of health care services to Territorians, including:

- an emergency department;
- day surgical services;
- outpatient services; and
- rehabilitation and geriatric evaluation and management services.

The delivery of Palmerston Regional Hospital is further supported by the 2017-18 Budget through:

- \$36 million over two years to support the commissioning of the hospital, including purchasing furniture, fixtures and equipment, and information and communications technology, to ensure the provision of safe, quality clinical services at commencement;
- \$2.5 million to construct a hydrotherapy pool at the hospital in 2018-19 to facilitate a full-spectrum and fit-for-purpose rehabilitation service, including dedicated therapy areas; and
- \$0.37 million to integrate the hospital into the metropolitan bus network.

The Territory's existing hospital network is also being strengthened through the 2017-18 Budget to improve outcomes and service delivery for patients through:

- \$80.1 million in 2017-18, to support the Department of Health's five-year \$259 million Core Clinical Systems Renewal Program to revolutionise the management of health records across the Territory to improve outcomes for patients by reducing readmissions, emergency department waiting times and improving patient safety;
- \$39.9 million, including \$10 million provided as part of the economic stimulus, to undertake repairs and maintenance works at health facilities across the Territory;
- \$18 million to establish a PET scanner and cyclotron at Royal Darwin Hospital to improve the detection and treatment of cancer;
- \$11.9 million to build a multistorey carpark at the Royal Darwin Hospital;
- \$5 million to install 12 new specialist chemotherapy chairs at the Royal Darwin Hospital; and
- \$9 million to continue upgrades to Gove District Hospital.

Mental Health

The 2017-18 Budget supports community health centres, non-government organisations and Aboriginal community-controlled health organisations to develop local strategies to improve mental health literacy in communities, and to support early identification and referral for support through:

- \$3 million over four years to trial a new partnership between the Territory government and non-government organisations to provide support services to up to 200 people with a mental illness who live in public housing in Darwin and Palmerston; and
- \$0.8 million over four years to offer 10 postgraduate scholarships per year for registered nurses to specialise in mental health nursing, 10 scholarships per year for enrolled mental health nursing students and provide opportunities for mental health specialisation for Aboriginal health practitioners and Aboriginal community workers to improve cultural competency.

Alcohol and Other Drugs

The 2017-18 Budget provides \$17.2 million to establish a health-based harm reduction framework including the Banned Drinker Register that will roll-out across the Territory from 1 September 2017, incentivised treatment options for problem drinkers and specialised treatment beds in Alice Springs and Darwin.

The 2017-18 Budget also commits \$0.75 million to expand rehabilitation services to tackle youth substance misuse and the Government is developing a strategy to identify, prevent and provide the support required for individuals and families affected by foetal alcohol spectrum disorder.

Disability

Transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) has commenced in the Territory in the Barkly and East Arnhem regions, and for Darwin supported accommodation participants.

NDIS is being rolled out across the Territory over a three-year period and will ultimately provide support to more than 6500 eligible Territorians.

The Territory Government is working collaboratively with the National Disability Insurance Agency and the Commonwealth, with a focus on maximising opportunities for Aboriginal economic participation, and local business and workforce development.

The 2017-18 Budget also provides \$8 million for early intervention and support to tackle challenging behaviours and support students with additional needs and mental health issues.



A Great Place to Live

Population Plan

The 2017-18 Budget includes a Population Plan, which highlights the actions government will take to improve population growth including:

- creating jobs and growing a diversified economy to prepare the Territory to meet future opportunities;
- building infrastructure to support a growing population;
- developing an overarching Territory brand designed to promote the Territory interstate and overseas;
- bringing international students to the Territory;
- placing downward pressure on the cost of living;
- developing a sense of place in urban centres; and
- supporting Territorians to stay in the Territory through their whole life.

Hooked on Fishing

The 2017-18 Budget supports recreational and commercial fishing through:

- \$5 million as part of the \$50 million recreational fishing infrastructure package;
- \$1.3 million for development of Aboriginal commercial fishing and aquaculture capacity, and to operate a marine ranger training program in Nhulunbuy;
- \$1 million to continue to enable community access to Territory coastal waters; and
- \$0.5 million to continue the sustainable management of the Territory's recreational fishing sector.

The 2017-18 Budget enhances the Territory lifestyle by investing in events, sports, the arts and our world-class parks to keep Territorians active and engaged. The 2017-18 Budget also drives down the cost of living to encourage families and senior Territorians to stay and enjoy the Territory.

Reducing the Cost of Living

The 2017-18 Budget includes a Cost of Living Plan to help Territorians into homes, support young families and seniors, and keep essential costs under control, through:

- getting Territorians jobs;
- supporting Territorians into homes;
- supporting the Territory's young families;
- targeted measures to help lower the cost of living; and
- supporting Territory seniors.

Targeted measures in the 2017-18 Budget to help lower the cost of living include:

- \$44.6 million, including a Commonwealth contribution, to provide children across the Territory with universal access to 15 hours a week of preschool education;
- \$33.9 million to support senior's, pensioners and carers;
- \$16.3 million to expand the Home Improvement Scheme, providing grants for home owner-occupiers in the Territory to do minor improvements, and repairs and maintenance on their home using Territory small businesses;
- \$7.1 million to continue the Back to School Payment Scheme, which provides \$150 per student to meet back-to-school expenses;
- \$6 million to continue the early childhood services subsidy for long day care, kindergarten for three year olds and family day care; and
- \$6.4 million for the Sport Voucher Scheme, including \$0.4 million for Learn to Swim vouchers.

The 2017-18 Budget also provides funding of \$86.8 million to ensure any increases to household utility prices are capped at the consumer price index.

Making Housing More Affordable

The 2017-18 Budget assists all Territorians – from first home buyers to seniors – to buy a home, including:

- continuing the First Home Owner Discount to provide stamp duty assistance of up to \$23 928 for first home buyers who purchase an established home in the Territory up to the value of \$650 000;
- \$7.9 million for the Home Owner Grants for Territory first home owner-occupiers;
- The First Home Owner Grant, which provides a \$26 000 grant for first home buyers who purchase or construct a new home;
- The Senior, Pensioner and Carer Concession, which provides a stamp duty discount of up to \$10 000 for the purchase of a home valued up to \$750 000, or vacant land valued up to \$385 000; and
- The Principal Place of Residence Rebate, which provides a \$7000 stamp duty rebate to non-first home buyers who purchase or build a new home.

Territory Parks and the Environment

The 2017-18 Budget enhances the Territory's natural assets and protects the unique Territory environment through:

- \$10 million over four years for infrastructure development within Nitmiluk National Park;
- \$5.2 million to support Territory Wildlife Park, including \$0.15 million for the development of a 10-year master plan and \$0.2 million to trial public transport and undertake website upgrades;
- \$1.8 million for lease payments to Aboriginal Land Trusts for Aboriginal-owned, jointly managed parks;
- \$0.6 million to implement the cabomba eradication program in Darwin River; and
- \$0.3 million to reduce risks associated with gamba grass infestation.

Supporting Sports and Events

The 2017-18 Budget invests in sport and recreation across the Territory by improving facilities and supporting sports from the grass roots, including:

- \$11.5 million for grants to sport and recreation organisations to deliver peak body funding, active remote communities, active recreation organisations, grass roots development, and facility and equipment grants;
- \$25 million to develop a new sporting complex at Warren Park for Rugby League;
- \$13.1 million over two years for motorsports infrastructure upgrades across the Territory, and \$8 million over four years to support motorsports;
- \$9.5 million to construct an indoor netball stadium in Darwin;
- \$6.2 million to upgrade sporting facilities in Alice Springs;
- \$5 million for the Remote Community Sports Infrastructure Program;
- \$5 million for Purkiss Reserve sporting facilities;
- \$3.5 million for the Urban and Regional Oval Lights Program;
- \$3 million for refurbishment and upgrades to TIO Stadium; and
- \$3 million over three years from 2017-18 to support National Rugby League games in the Territory.

Arts and Museums

The 2017-18 Budget supports arts and museums through:

- \$9 million over four years from 2016-17 to support the Territory's screen industry;
- \$7.7 million for the operation of the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory; and
- \$2.3 million for an Alcoota Megafauna Fossil Exhibition in the Alice Springs CBD.

The 2017-18 Budget also marks the commencement of the Territory Government's \$100 million Indigenous Arts Trail initiative that will be delivered over the coming years, including:

- An Iconic National Indigenous Cultural Centre in Alice Springs;
- An Iconic National Indigenous Art Gallery in Alice Springs; and
- Art gallery extensions in East Arnhem, Katherine and Tennant Creek.

The 2017-18 Budget provides a further \$6 million over three years for upgrades to community art galleries, art centres, museums, libraries and keeping places.



Restoring Trust

Trust and Integrity Reform

During 2017, legislation will be introduced to establish an Independent Commission Against Corruption that will have the power to investigate allegations of corruption, and establish a clear and transparent integrity framework.

The 2017-18 Budget provides \$3 million to establish and operate the Commission.

The 2017-18 Budget also provides the resources to progress Government's reform agenda, including reforms associated with:

- appointing statutory officers;
- returning transparency to judicial appointments;
- the conduct of parliament;
- deliberative democracy;
- electoral processes;
- freedom of information;
- parliamentary travel, including publishing details and costs of overseas travel before it occurs;
- restoring integrity to the Territory's planning regime; and
- changes to stop taxpayers money being used for political advertising.

Treaty

The Territory Government has committed to a public discussion about a treaty with Aboriginal Territorians.

A treaty will support a new approach to reconciliation and self-determination, and is intended to promote greater pride and improved wellbeing in the Aboriginal population, facilitating social and economic participation, better service delivery and real outcomes.

The 2017-18 Budget supports a range of reforms to deliver Government's promise to be open, accountable, consultative and transparent.

Local Decision Making

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 local decision making through government partnering with Aboriginal representative organisations and Aboriginal people is being developed and will include areas such as housing, local government, education and training, health, looking after children, and law and justice. Government will build, support and invest in strong Aboriginal capability to ensure local people drive local solutions and that Aboriginal organisations are supported.

Making Informed Decisions

The 2017-18 Budget supports informed decision making through:

- \$3.1 million to support the scientific inquiry panel and public consultations associated with the moratorium on hydraulic fracking and establishment of a hydraulic fracturing taskforce to ensure the Territory's unique natural assets are protected by a robust environmental protection regime;
- establishment of expert reference panels to:
 - provide analysis and advice in the preparation of the Early Childhood Development Strategic Plan and provide expert advice to the Government;
 - provide advice and inform the development of a Roadmap to Renewables Report including a 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030; and
- reviewing water licensing to ensure transparency and evidence-based decisions.

Fulfilling our Promises

The 2017-18 Budget supports the delivery of the Government's election commitments including:

- \$1.1 billion for the 10-year Remote Housing Investment Package;
- \$17.2 million in 2017-18 to establish a best practice health-based alcohol harm reduction framework, including the reintroduction of the Banned Drinker Register;
- \$56.4 million over four years towards the Building Better Schools commitment for \$300 000 to every school to undertake important upgrades;
- \$31 million for education initiatives including \$20 million for school budgets;
- \$50 million over five years for the recreational fishing infrastructure program;
- \$25.8 million to build a new Palmerston police station; and
- \$5 million in 2017-18, increasing to \$15.75 million by 2019-20, for police resourcing and recruitment.

In addition, the following funded commitments will be progressed within the current term of Government:

- \$30 million to establish an Indigenous Arts Trail across the Territory;
- \$50 million for an Iconic National Indigenous Art Gallery in Alice Springs; and
- \$20 million for an Iconic National Indigenous Cultural Centre in Alice Springs.