

INVESTING IN THE BUSH

All Territorians deserve to live in communities that provide the economic, social and cultural support people need to thrive. Budget 2018 empowers bush communities by creating jobs, delivering new infrastructure projects and building strong families.

Remote Housing Investment Package

A good home provides firm foundations for positive health, education and employment outcomes, and helps to build a strong sense of community. To this end, we are continuing to deliver the 10-year \$1.1 billion Remote Housing Investment Package to improve housing and create local jobs in communities. In 2018-19 this will include:

- \$96.9 million to build new fit-for-purpose homes
- \$36.9 million to construct new living spaces to ease overcrowding in existing homes
- \$17.4 million to provide new housing for locally recruited government employees
- \$20 million for repairs and maintenance for remote public housing.

Government is also providing \$63.5 million to support the rollout of new housing by preparing land and setting up electrical, water and sewerage infrastructure.

Strong local economies

We know a strong local economy empowers communities. Budget 2018 supports jobs for Territorians in remote and regional areas through:

- \$8.5 million to support core local government service delivery by providing funding for regional councils to employ Aboriginal staff
- \$5 million to contribute to local government infrastructure through the Strategic Local Government Infrastructure Fund.

Connecting communities

Communities can thrive when they are more easily connected by reliable and safe roads, across all seasons. Budget 2018 delivers new road infrastructure for regional areas, including:

- \$9.9 million to partner with the Australian Government to upgrade bridges on the Tablelands Highway, improving access and reducing load restrictions on road trains
- \$5 million to seal the Central Arnhem Road between the Bulman community and airstrip to improve road safety, community access and flood immunity
- \$2.5 million to continue to seal the Tanami Road between the Stuart Highway and Yuendumu.

Budget 2018 also delivers improved sea and air access to remote communities, including:

- \$6.4 million for barge landing facilities in Galiwin'ku, Ramingining, Gapuwiyak, Wadeye and Maningrida
- \$8.5 million over four years for aerodrome works in Elcho Island, Wadeye, Maningrida, Milingimbi, Bathurst Island and Ali Curung.

The Territory will invest \$14 million over four years to partner with Telstra to improve mobile phone and broadband telecommunications infrastructure through a new round of the Remote Telecommunications Co-investment Program.

Fact Sheet

Growing strong families in the bush

This government is determined to make meaningful change to improve the lives of children and families across the Territory by fixing our broken child protection and youth justice systems in response to the final report of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.

We recognise that fundamental, wholesale reforms, driven by local Aboriginal organisations and people, are the best way to improve outcomes for Aboriginal families. Budget 2018 commits \$229.6 million over five years to deliver new and improved services, particularly in regional and remote areas, including:

- \$22.3 million to provide wraparound support for children and families, including establishing family support centres to connect vulnerable children and families with targeted services, and providing supported accommodation for young people leaving the child protection system
- \$8.2 million to overhaul care and protection practice for children in the Territory, including working to strengthen the involvement of Aboriginal foster and kinship carers
- \$22.8 million to provide early intervention services and diversionary programs to nurture children in their home communities and away from detention in Darwin or Alice Springs
- \$8.9 million to ensure local communities and Aboriginal-controlled organisations have a central role in service design and delivery.

Government has also committed to a new youth justice training centre in Darwin (\$70 million) and to reforming youth justice operations across the Territory (\$22.95 million). In this way, we will support the therapeutic, educational and cultural needs of young people in detention and deliver real change for young people and their home communities through innovative fit-for-purpose facilities.

Early childhood investment

To give children the best possible start in life, the government is also delivering a package of new initiatives through the Early Childhood Development Plan (\$5.6 million in 2018-19, growing to \$10 million in 2019-20). The plan includes a range of initiatives to support families and children, including:

- expanding the Healthy Under 5 Kids Partnering with Families program to Tennant Creek, Katherine, Nhulunbuy and Central Australian remote primary health clinics
- establishing four additional Hearing Health Partnership locations to promote good ear health hygiene, language and learning behaviours
- expanding the Families as First Teachers initiative to deliver a daily early childhood development, learning and family support program for children aged zero to four and their families.
- establishing a network of 17 child and family centres, including an additional 11 new centres over the next five years to support the delivery of universal and targeted services to children and families.

Supporting jobs and growth in Aboriginal communities

The Territory Government is investing in economic development, job creation and capacity building in remote communities across the Territory. Budget 2018 includes the following to support jobs and economic growth on country:

- \$2.1 million for capital equipment and infrastructure for Aboriginal ranger groups to support them to carry out their critical conservation and land management work
- \$2.57 million towards the Land Management and Conservation Fund, supporting Aboriginal rangers to improve conservation practices on land and sea country
- \$0.5 million to continue development of the Aboriginal Carbon Unit to open up more opportunities for communities to engage in carbon farming.