

MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate circulation

Country Liberal Government will deliver comprehensive roads plan to connect the Territory and create jobs

A Country Liberal Government will focus on sealing and maintaining our primary economic roads, upgrading unsealed trucking routes, as well as bringing forward committed funding for identified 'Roads of Strategic Importance'. We will also upgrade trouble spots like the Berrimah Road/Tiger Brennan Drive Intersection as part of a comprehensive roads plan, Opposition Leader Lia Finocchiaro said today.

"No one can underestimate the importance of quality road infrastructure to the Territory, especially in our regional and remote areas. Good roads are critical for transport, supply lines, as well as for strategic defence purposes. They are also the key to unlocking new jobs and economic development in regional and remote areas," Mrs Finocchiaro said.

A Country Liberal Government will plan and design 'shovel ready' road projects for consideration by the Commonwealth Government as part of their infrastructure priorities. This is something that has been neglected over the past four years.

About 70 per cent of the Territory's roads are unsealed and have suffered from tight maintenance schedules and budgets. Many key unsealed roads have been graded to the point of being "dug in" with pervasive corrugation.

For our unsealed roads, a CLP Government will invest in a 'rip and reform' program, to remove defects and corrugation, while rebuilding and reforming the road to allow water drainage. This cost-effective method prepares the road to be maintained until it's sealed. Sealing will be prioritised in sections in priority areas and packaged to support local contractors to win the work.

A CLP Government will also ensure that our urban road network is safe with the best possible traffic distribution. This will include urban road projects such as the Tiger Brennan Freeway Project Stage 1: Berrimah Road Intersection.

Regional roads that will be prioritised by a CLP Government:

- Identified 'Roads of Strategic Importance', with Commonwealth funding:
 - Adelaide River to Wadeye Corridor: Port Keats Road, Daly River Road and Dorat Road – sealing and flood-proofing to ensure year-round access to Wadeye from the Stuart Highway.

Leader of the Opposition
LIA FINOCCHIARO MLA

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- Mango Roads: Sections of Chibnall Road, Mocatto Road, Horsnell Road and Kentish Road in the Litchfield Municipality – upgrades to improve transit times for getting mangoes to market.
 - Alice Springs to Halls Creek Corridor: Tanami Road and Stuart Highway – sealing and weather-proofing to aid mining projects and cattle stations in getting product to market.
 - Newman to Katherine Corridor: Victoria Highway – surface improvements and weather-proofing to ensure cattle stations can get product to market and export.
 - Tennant Creek to Townsville Corridor: Barkly Highway - surface improvements and weather-proofing to ensure cattle stations can get product to market and export.
- Roads aiding economic development of Aboriginal communities: Central Arnhem Road, Carpentaria Highway, Arnhem Link Road, Roper Highway, Port Melville Road (Pirlangimpi), Santa Teresa Road, Sandover Highway – (sealing, flood-proofing and general upgrades to increase access for Aboriginal communities to enhance social connectivity and economic opportunity).
 - Other roads to open up industry and tourism: Buntine Highway (Cattle), Murandji Road (cattle), Douglas-Daly Connector Road (Cotton/Mining/Timber), Larapinta Drive/Mereenie Inner Loop of the Red Centre Way (Tourism), Tablelands Highway Bridges (Cattle), Outback Way: Plenty Highway (Cattle/Tourism), Wollgorang Road (Cattle/Tourism), Kakadu Roads (Tourism), Point Stuart Road (Fishing/Tourism).

“A Country Liberal Party Government will value the importance of road infrastructure and prioritise upgrades and maintenance. We need to open up our regions so they can realise their economic potential to create job opportunities,” Mrs Finocchiaro concluded.

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