

# Territory-wide significant projects, programs and proposals

The Northern Territory holds the heart of the nation and is linked by a central spine to our northern capital of Darwin at the top of Australia. With a view to our Asian neighbours and bordered by 6 states, the Territory is in an enviable economic and environmental position.

The Territory's location and natural assets are our biggest opportunities as well as our biggest challenges.

The Territory is seen as one region but its size, physical remoteness, small population and 2 starkly different climates create a variety of challenges and opportunities.

Its natural landscapes are formed from tropical wet and dry seasons in the north and from winter through to summer in its desert centre.

The Stuart Highway and Adelaide to Darwin Railway link our centres from Alice Springs in the south to Tennant Creek, Pine Creek and Katherine in the north. Darwin sits on the edge of the Arafura Sea while our other coastal centre Nhulunbuy lies on the East Arnhem coast.

The Territory is one of the most linguistically diverse areas of the world with more than 100 different Aboriginal languages and dialects spoken, including Arrernte in Central Australia, Yolngu in Arnhem Land and Tiwi in Tiwi Islands near the Timor Sea, to name a few.

Each of the Territory's regions are distinct, including connection to travel and transport routes, local industry opportunities, infrastructure challenges, climate and environment, the people and areas they service, their natural landscape and man-made attractions.

Sustainable workforces, biosecurity, digital connectivity, water security, land tenure, housing availability and transport infrastructure gaps are common challenges across our regions.

Our opportunities include the history and culture embedded in our remote areas and regions. It is in the regions where population growth, improved lifestyle and culture and economic opportunity will spread as major projects create jobs and local business growth.

Our regions are the Territory's growth hubs and include:

- Darwin, Palmerston and Litchfield
- Top End
- Big Rivers
- Central Australia
- Barkly
- East Arnhem

This Plan and Pipeline explores the strengths, gaps and growth opportunities for our regions including major industries and growth sectors, challenges and opportunities and key infrastructure priorities.

## Investment portfolio

The Territory-wide total investment portfolio has a direct impact on economic and population growth. It is important to understand the magnitude of economic and population growth to inform the enabling infrastructure plan.

Infrastructure NT has worked closely with Investment Territory to determine the total investment portfolio. This analysis determined the following total investments anticipated for the Territory-wide region, subsequent jobs, accommodation needs and population growth.

Analysis is based on Investment Territory 2022–2023 Progress and Outlook: May 2023



Note 1: Includes direct and indirect where provided by proponents

Note 2: Includes direct and indirect where provided by proponents in the NT only

Note 3: Based on 2.6 multiplier (ABS average persons per household NT regional)

Note: Numbers are approximate over 10 years. Further refined analysis is ongoing.

Transport and  
Logistics

Rail

Aurizon – Railway service expansion 20

Aurizon, an Australian company with more than 150 years of rail experience, is the nation's largest rail freight business and transports about 250 million tonnes for customers each year. Aurizon brings its scale and capability to the Northern Territory and looks forward to contributing to the NT Government's goal of building a \$40 billion economy by 2030.

In mid-2022, Aurizon invested \$1.4 billion to acquire the One Rail business in the Northern Territory and South Australia, including the Tarcoola to Darwin rail corridor. This investment recognises the strategic value and potential of the business in serving rapidly growing markets for resources, agribusiness, renewable energy and general freight.

The 2240-kilometre Tarcoola to Darwin railway is a nationally significant corridor with direct connection to the Port of Darwin, the closest port to Australia's largest trading partners in Asia. Aurizon is committed to improving the efficiency and capacity of this corridor, with targeted investment to benefit existing customers and to boost the viability of adjacent agricultural, mineral and energy projects under development.

In the first 12 months of operation, Aurizon has committed investment of more than \$50 million in new assets for the region, as well as preparing plans to increase the number of services along the railway as we respond to increasing customer demand. This also includes the potential opportunity to construct additional passing loops on the rail corridor and to build additional capacity in the Darwin/Berrimah rail terminal at the port.

As well as supporting customer growth and development of regional projects, these investments have the flow-on benefits of increasing local employment and supporting local communities and business. More than 80% of Aurizon's nationwide workforce of 5800 employees live and work in regional communities.









## Enabling infrastructure plan

The enabling infrastructure plan for across the Territory lists the infrastructure proposals that are not yet funded, are in the planning phase and have been identified as enabling an outcome.

Proposals listed respond to economic and/or population growth or address the cross cutting objectives in the NT Infrastructure Strategy 2022 – 2030.

Proposals	Estimated Total \$m	Challenges/opportunities	Timeframe (Years)
Access road upgrades to barge landings and all-weather aerodromes	50	Improve all weather air and sea access to support accessibility, visitor growth and community safety	0-15
Across the Territory upgrade and new bores	•	Support improved water management	0-10
Aerodrome and airstrip upgrades	30	Support connectivity and improve all weather access to improve community safety, accessibility and support future growth	0-15
AFLNT facilities upgrade to support growth in girls and womens football	1	Strengthen a healthy, active lifestyle by improving recreation opportunities and enhance visitor experience	0-5
Barge landing upgrades	150	Support economic development by improving all weather access and goods handling facilities	0-15
Football ovals install lighting	4	Strengthen a healthy, active lifestyle by improving recreation opportunities and enhance visitor experience	0-5
Logistics Network continued expansion	•	Enable economic development by improving supply chains and transport	0-10
Mobile and/or broadband services	33	Enable connectivity and create digital opportunities	0-10
National highways bridge upgrades	40	Improve flood resilience and support accessibility, connectivity and amenity	0-10
Network of fast charging points for electric vehicles at key tourist and rural locations	5	Enable economic development and population growth through tourism led economy	0-10
Park facilities to enhance experience and access for visitors with limited mobility	•	Support accessibility, connectivity and amenity for all visitors	0-10
Public Transport upgrade bus stops	20	Support accessibility, connectivity and amenity for public transport passengers	0-15

Timeframe	
 0-5 Years	 0-10 Years
 5-10 Years	 10-15 Years
	 0-15 Years
	 15+ Years

• indicates value is either commercial in confidence or to be confirmed.

Proposals	Estimated Total \$m	Challenges/opportunities	Timeframe (Years)
Rail passing loops		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enable economic development by improving supply chains, processing and transport</li> </ul>	0-10
Remote Infrastructure Fund upgrade 40+ community facilities to support AFL	200	Strengthen a healthy, active lifestyle by improving recreation opportunities and enhance visitor experience	0-10
Tennant Creek to Darwin common user infrastructure corridor		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the continued development of our regions by providing an infrastructure corridor to enable future services including gas, water, communications and other utilities</li> </ul>	0-5
Territory Parks develop new visitor hubs in the Top End, Savannah Gulf, Barkly and Central Australia regions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Value, preserve and expand access to parks, increase visitation opportunities and visitor experience</li> </ul>	0-15
Territory Parks two-wheel drive access improvements		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Value, preserve and expand access to parks, increase visitation opportunities and visitor experience</li> </ul>	0-15
Territory Parks water security projects		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure water security to enable commercial opportunities</li> </ul>	0-10
Territory Schools air-conditioning mechanical and electrical upgrades	50	Upgrade ageing infrastructure to support the continued delivery of quality education	0-15
Upgrade roads to communities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve all weather access to support accessibility, growth and community safety</li> </ul>	0-15

## Implementation pathway

The suggested implementation pathways outline actions that can be taken to respond to anticipated economic and population growth challenges and opportunities.

Implementation pathway	Prioritisation action	Progress
<b>Territory-wide</b>		
Plan for regional waste facilities	Reform	In progress
Develop options to ensure that entry level and affordable housing are in the market, including options to accelerate market participation by community housing providers	Reform	In progress
Complete Infrastructure Audit	Reform	Achieved

## Infrastructure pipeline

The following is a list of committed Territory-wide projects, funded by either government or the private sector.

Project	Estimated \$m				Challenges/opportunities
	Total	2023-24	2024-25	Outer Years	
Across all regions upgrade critical water tanks	15.2	1.5	6.0	•	Support population growth by improving access to quality water
Across all regions water main replacement	14.4	2.9	4.5	•	Support population growth by improving access to quality water
Across all regions water services minor works	33.0	13.0	15.0	•	Support population growth by improving access to quality water
Alice Springs to Darwin corridor (Stuart Highway) road safety improvements	62.3		50.0	•	Increase road capacity, safety, support accessibility, connectivity and amenity
Community Housing Provider housing projects	7.0	•			Provide safe, secure and affordable housing for people on low incomes
Community Housing Provider redevelopment projects	4.4	4.4			Provide safe, secure and affordable housing for people on low incomes
Darwin-Katherine Transmission Line (DKTL) secondary systems upgrade	9.0	6.0			Asset renewal to support growth, compliance and improve service efficiency
Digital Connectivity Program	7.5	•	•	•	Enabling connectivity and creating digital equality
Government Employee Housing Build Program	186.0	48.0	30.0	•	Provide Government employees with safe, secure and appropriate housing while performing duties in remote locations
Government managed Remote Women's Safe House upgrades and remote play equipment	1.4	1.0			Support vulnerable people by improving community service facilities
Homeland housing and infrastructure upgrade program	77.0	•	•	•	Capital grant to upgrade ageing infrastructure to support communities
Homeland Learning Centres infrastructure upgrades	1.0		1.0		Upgrade ageing infrastructure to support the continued delivery of quality education
Indigenous Essential Services asset replacement	84.0	21.0	21.0	•	Support remote communities by improving essential services efficiency

A lesser figure in the 2023-24 and 2024-25 columns than in the Total column indicates either previous year expenditure or expenditure in outer years.

• indicates value is either commercial in confidence or to be confirmed.

Project	Estimated \$m				Challenges/opportunities
	Total	2023-24	2024-25	Outer Years	
Indigenous Essential Services capital improvements	21.0	7.0	7.0		Support remote communities by improving essential services efficiency
Indigenous Essential Services headworks to support development	70.0			•	Support population growth by increasing land availability
Information communications technology (ICT) cabling upgrades in schools	8.0	1.0			Enable connectivity and create digital opportunity
Infrastructure to support Territory Families, Housing and Communities remote services expansion	11.3	11.2			Improve outcomes for children and families
Mobile oral health dental unit replacement	0.7	0.7			Strengthen liveability by improving infrastructure to support oral health services
Planning works to support the development of land infrastructure planning, concept development and detailed design	41.0	4.0	4.0	•	Enable economic development and population growth by increasing land availability
Power Networks augmentation and capital projects	164.0	43.0	36.0	•	Asset renewal to support growth, compliance and improve service efficiency
Public Housing new builds	8.5	•			Provide safe, secure and affordable housing for people on low incomes
RAAF Base Darwin and Mt Bunday Training Area – National Airfields Works	351.0			•	Maintenance to maximise existing infrastructure
Rail upgrades to support growth	•	25.0	25.0	•	Maintenance to maximise existing supply chain and transport infrastructure
Regional Logistics Hubs	440.0	10.0	50.0	•	Enable economic development by improving supply chains and transport
Remote Women's Safe House upgrades managed by Non-Government Organisation (NGO)	1.6	•			Capital grants to support vulnerable people by improving community service facilities
Replace critical asset elements in various hospitals, remote health clinics, schools and police stations	20.0	•	•	•	Ensure a safe and healthy work environment and best practice in the delivery of government services
Road Safety Program, including intersection upgrades, improvements for pedestrian safety, street lighting, truck parking bays, rest areas	267.0	15.0	80.0	•	Support connectivity, regional development and safety by improving key arterial and secondary roads

Project	Estimated \$m				Challenges/opportunities
	Total	2023-24	2024-25	Outer Years	
Roads to Recovery Program targeted local road upgrades	24.7	•	•		Enhance road infrastructure to support accessibility, connectivity, safety and amenity
Security enhancements to police facilities	9.0	2.0	2.0	•	Support the continued delivery of quality police services
Targeted road safety projects, local roads and community infrastructure shovel ready projects	67.5	20.0	7.6		Australian and Northern Territory governments supporting infrastructure construction jobs across the Territory
Territory Schools air-conditioning mechanical and electrical upgrades	4.0	2.0			Upgrade ageing infrastructure to support the continued delivery of quality education
Training areas and ranges – United States Force Posture Initiative	711.0	•	•	•	Upgrade infrastructure to enhance defence capability and operations

## NT Infrastructure Audit

Reliable infrastructure is a vital part of maintaining and improving our quality of life. It provides us with the essential services we rely on, such as transport, energy, water and telecommunications, as well as social infrastructure such as hospitals and health centres, schools, policing and parks, and access to goods and services.

In 2022 and 2023, Infrastructure NT conducted a strategic audit of Territory infrastructure to provide an evidence base to guide future infrastructure investment decision making. The outcomes of the audit focus attention on the investments and reforms that will improve our living standards and local and national productivity.

The audit, as discussed in chapter 3, revealed several potential infrastructure needs. Where these needs were already in the planning phase, they have been included in the Enabling Infrastructure Plan or Infrastructure Pipeline tables in the regional sections of this document. The remaining Territory-wide audit items are listed below. These potential infrastructure needs could be considered for possible inclusion in the Plan and Pipeline over time as scoping, feasibility analysis and business case development determines viability. Industry, business and community stakeholders are encouraged to let Infrastructure NT know if they progress with planning and delivery of their ideas and proposals.



### Transport and Logistics

- 1600 kilometre rail corridor east to west through Ti Tree (total Australian corridor 3700 kilometres)



### Utilities

- Remote telecommunications and digital co-investment program
- Remote communities essential services infrastructure to support remote Aboriginal community development



### Social Infrastructure

- Aged care facilities
- Asbestos management of unidentified asbestos prior to Northern Territory Government infrastructure development
- Child care centre upgrade program
- Education facilities to support Learning on Country
- Government and industry housing
- New and improved (shaded) recreational facilities