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21 JULY 2009

Landmark projects spark huge stimulus for economy

Major projects totalling more than \$340 million will trigger a massive stimulus for Townsville's economy and local jobs over the next two years.

Council is allocating \$231 million (including grants) in the City Budget to the biggest list of major public projects in the city's history in a funding partnership with the State and Commonwealth governments.

The projects will be constructed over the next two financial years and are the centrepiece of the council's 2009-2010 capital works budget of \$374.2 million.

They include the massive upgrade of water and sewerage infrastructure, the Flinders St redevelopment, international sports centre at Murray, the Townsville Civic Theatre extension, and construction of North Shore Boulevard (**also included in Roads Budget**).

Mayor Cr Les Tyrell said a combined \$209 million in council, State and Commonwealth funding would pour into the projects in the 2009-10 financial year.

"Cranes will once again appear on construction sites across the city and the council is leading the way," Cr Tyrell said.

"These major projects will provide essential infrastructure and community facilities to support our great lifestyle and the next major phase of growth in Townsville.

"This will also strike an immediate blow against the global financial crisis with major opportunities for local contractors, hundreds of direct and indirect jobs, and an injection of millions of dollars into the local economy.

"The council could not have undertaken these projects alone and we're extremely grateful that the State and Commonwealth have acknowledged the economic and social imperative with their generous funding support."

The city will receive \$157 million in grants this year with the balance funded in 2010-11.

Key Initiatives & Projects:

- **Townsville International Sports Centre**
Total Budget: \$13.65 million
Funding: Federal Government \$3.05m, State Government \$9m, TCC balance
Estimated Start: Late 2009
Estimated Completion: Late 2010

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- **Civic Theatre Extension**
Total Budget: \$12.73 million
Funding: State Government \$5.73m, TCC balance
Estimated Start: July 2009
Estimated Completion: July 2010
- **Flinders Mall Redevelopment**
Total Budget: \$56.6 million
Funding: Federal Government \$16.2m; State Government \$18.9m, TCC balance
- **Wastewater Upgrade Program**
Total Budget: \$189 million
Funding: State Government \$66.7 million, Federal Government \$39.1m, TCC balance
Start Date: September 2009
Completion Date: Early 2011
- **Townsville Water Supply Upgrade**
Total Budget: \$91 million
Funding: State Government \$33m, TCC balance
Start date: Currently underway
- **North Shore Boulevard (also included in Roads Budget statement)**
Total Budget: \$40 million
Funding: TCC expenditure for 2009/10 is \$37.4m
Start date: Currently in design phase
Completion date: Late 2010

Media information:

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