

**The Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600**

Dear Sir/Madam

I appreciate my comments and points may not be considered given the closing date was 22 October 2008. I make the follow observations as a community member.

(a) the level of service delivery and of outcomes achieved in Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory in relation to the expenditure of both Federal and Northern Territory monies; and

No new public housing/flat construction funding has been provided by the Northern Territory Government to Tennant Creek since an R&M project in 1985 to address population expansion.

No substantial Sports and Recreation funding provided for our Region of over 6,000 residents. Funding received by the NTG from Commonwealth Sports and Recreation for specific community Indigenous Sports and Recreation Officer allocated for Tennant Creek has been relocated to Alice Springs due to "recruitment difficulties", it is understood the Department could not supply a house or vehicle for works required.

No birthing services available in our Region

No mental health services in our Region

No consistent bush mobile services from NT Health to our region both north and south Barkly

No Alcohol and Other Drugs workers in Tennant Creek

Removal of NTG positions for Tennant Creek to Alice Springs

Newspaper article

Barkly budget bypass

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THE Territory Budget launch in Tennant Creek was a quiet affair because very few people were invited.

Not that Treasurer Delia Lawrie would have had time for many guests anyway - she was only in town for less than two hours.

And there wasn't much news to deliver, apart from a commitment to build a new sobering up shelter and to install an electricity generator.

Not all money committed to the Barkly from last year's budget has been spent yet such as the allocation for for the main street upgrade in Tennant Creek, the new pump station at Cabbage Gum Bore and the fire safety upgrade at the local hospital.

The majority of the capital works budget is carry-over from previous years, indicating there is no real commitment to improving infrastructure in the area.

Ms Lawrie told the gathering of five her budget delivers for Territory families and invests in the future of the Northern Territory, however the investments are clearly top heavy.

There is more to be spent finishing off the Darwin Wharf Precinct than there would be spent on infrastructure throughout the entire Barkly.

Just \$8.3 million has been set aside for capital works with around \$10.5 million to be spent on repairs and maintenance.

If the Government had number-crunched according to a per capita basis at least \$28 million, rather than \$19 million, should have been committed to infrastructure in the Barkly region.

That's \$9 million short!

Probably enough to build a prison here.

(b) whether the Northern Territory Government's expenditure of goods and services tax receipts accurately reflects the Commonwealth Grants Commission's funding formula for the expenditure of such receipts by program, by location, and by intended service recipient for meeting disadvantage and regional need.

I would not believe the level of GST expenditure is being reflected in the Barkly Region.

Clarissa (Rissa) Burgen