29 September 2011

Skilled Migration Essential to Continued Population Growth

The latest population figures release by the Australian Bureau of Statistics show the Territory grew at 0.4% through the year to March 2011.

Treasurer, Delia Lawrie, said the moderation in population growth follows one of the longest periods of sustained population growth in Territory history.

“In the last ten years the Territory population has grown by more than 31,000 with more than 20,000 new jobs created.” Ms Lawrie said.

“The Territory has traditionally experienced peaks and troughs of migration around major projects, and current population trends can be attributed to the relocation of almost 1000 defence personnel families, and major projects in other resource states such as the rebuilding of Queensland following last year’s disastrous floods.

“However the future is bright and Access Economics forecast a strong population rebound with the advent of major projects on the horizon including INPEX, the Marine Supply Base and the new prison, which will create thousands of new jobs.

“To fuel this next stage of growth, the Territory Government continues to roll out our targeted interstate and overseas skilled migration strategy to attract the workers we need.

“Meanwhile the CLP have this week made it clear that interstate workers are not welcome.”

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