Treasurer Delia Lawrie said getting the Territory the most out of reforms to Commonwealth payments will be her focus when she meets with Treasurers in Canberra this week.

Ms Lawrie will meet with the State and Territory Treasurers tomorrow and attend the Ministerial Council for Commonwealth-State Financial Relations on Friday.

Distribution of GST revenue will be discussed as well as changes to the Commonwealth Grants Commission.

“I will be pursuing the Territory’s case for a fair share of GST revenue in any changes to the current system,” Ms Lawrie said.

“It costs more to deliver services in the Territory, especially in remote areas, so it is vital this is recognised by the Commonwealth in the distribution of GST revenue.

“We know that Federal Treasurer Wayne Swan intends to cut the red tape surrounding Specific Purpose Payments.

“The Territory supports this reform that will make it easier and more efficient to deliver services, but we will ensure the Territory does not lose any funding in the changes.”

Treasurers will continue work on developing a national reporting framework for Indigenous Services.

Ms Lawrie will also meet with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Development and Northern Australia, Mr Gary Gray, to discuss strategic infrastructure.

“Mr Gray is a friend of the Territory who understands our critical potential in delivering domestic and international gas,” she said.

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