$1.3 BILLION TRADE SURPLUS

International trade figures show the Northern Territory’s goods trade is growing with strength with a surplus of $1.3 billion.

Treasurer Delia Lawrie said the Territory is fast becoming an export economy and in the last year exports increased by $210 million.

“The Northern Territory has hit a trade surplus of $1.3 billion and the NT Government is working to further build our strong economy,” she said.

“Our economy is continuing to buck national trends at a time where Australia’s trade deficit has widened to $21.3 billion.

“The Darwin Port Corporation has projected a one million tonne increase in cargo trade this financial year.

“The NT Government’s 10 Year Infrastructure Plan and a new East Arm Wharf strategy will further drive the Territory’s export market.

“Gas, minerals and livestock and the main contributors to our strong performing export market.

“The Territory Government investment in the $24 million bulk loader at East Arm Wharf to meet the growing demand at the Port is practical proof of our growing export economy.

“We have a world class rail system, a world class port and easy access into Asia which makes the Territory an appealing place to do business.

“Leading economic forecaster Access Economics recently predicted that the Territory will experience the highest economic and jobs growth in the country for the next five years.

“Territorians are enjoying the benefits of a strong economy and recent ABS and Sensis figures show that retail spending remains strong and business confidence is high.

“The Henderson Government will continue work to ensure the benefits of the strong economy flow on to Territory families,” said Ms Lawrie.

Contact: Nicole Manison 0448 693 279 or 8901 4138