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POPULATION GROWTH LEADS TO $80M MORE GST MONEY

The Northern Territory is set to receive its fair share of GST revenue with an additional $80 million from Canberra this year.

Treasurer Delia Lawrie said the Territory’s growing population and significant roads needs have been recognised in the assessment by the Commonwealth Grants Commission.

“The Commonwealth Grants Commission released its assessment for each State and Territory’s entitlement to GST revenue and they have increased the Territory’s share by $79.8 million,” she said.

“The assessment took into account the 2006 Census figures which show the Territory’s population growth rate exceeded the national figure.

“In 2006 the Territory Government called for people to make sure they took part in that year’s Census to ensure we got our fair share of Federal funding.

“Territorians should be congratulated. Standing up and being counted in the last Census has resulted in a fairer share of national GST revenue.

“We know it costs more to deliver services in the Territory and we have more people than ever, so we are pleased the Commonwealth Grants Commission recognised the need for a fairer share of GST revenue for the Territory.

“Leading economic forecaster Access Economics recently reported that the Territory’s population was predicted to grow by 1.8% annually over the next five years.

“The Henderson Government will continue work to ensure the Territory is the best place to live, work and raise a family,” said Ms Lawrie.

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