Focus Continues on Infrastructure to Support Economy

Treasurer Delia Lawrie today told Federal Treasurer Wayne Swan that the Territory was fast-tracking projects funded by the Commonwealth’s $42 billion Stimulus Package at the Treasurer’s Conference in Canberra today.

The Treasurers’ Loans Council meeting also welcomed a commitment from the Commonwealth Government to guarantee State and Territory Government borrowings in the light of the Global Financial Crisis.

“The borrowing agreement will be a temporary measure, similar to the existing bank guarantees, to underpin the importance of all governments to continue to finance critical infrastructure projects to support jobs,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Like bond markets around the world, state and territory government bond markets have been hit hard by the global recession.

“We welcome this responsible approach by the Commonwealth Government to seek to re-establish historical norms that existed prior to the global recession and the bank guarantee.

“Historically state and territory government borrowings have been seen as low risk, this guarantee reiterates that confidence.”

Ms Lawrie updated Mr Swan on Territory actions to cut red tape, streamline approval processes and work closely with business to make the most of the $500 million investment in the Territory flowing from the Rudd Government’s stimulus package.

“This is all about protecting Territory jobs – and the Territory Government is pulling out all stops to get these projects up and running,” Ms Lawrie said.

The Territory Government is already rolling-out projects under the stimulus package which have started or are about to start, including $12 million in extra road works on our national highways and $4 million in housing upgrades and repairs.

Work has already started on some projects and the time for approval processes has been cut in half for others.

Federal Treasury brief all State and Territory Treasurers on the current economic conditions and the challenges ahead.

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