Australia’s Strongest Growth

New ABS figures released today show economic growth in the Territory is leading the nation.

Treasurer Delia Lawrie today said the Territory’s State Final Demand strengthened to 8.5% in 2008, more than double the national average of 4.1%.

“The growth in our State Final Demand in 2008 compared to 2007 was the highest of all the jurisdictions,” Ms Lawrie said.

“The strong result in the Territory over this period was driven by strong growth in private sector investment, a growing population and high levels of consumer and business confidence.

“Retail trade figures released yesterday showed that this vital sector of our economy grew at about three times the national average – a strong indicator of a healthy economy.

“Business investment grew by 30.2% to $3.9 billion in 2008 – significantly above the $3 billion average over the past six years.

“And public sector investment increased by 23.8% to $795 million, the highest annual amount since 2002.”

Ms Lawrie said a decline in Commonwealth Government expenditure towards the end of 2008 was the primary driver behind the decrease of 0.7% in the Territory’s State Final Demand in the December quarter.

“Yesterday’s strong retail trade figures show there is strong confidence in our economy and the Rudd Government’s $42 billion Nation Building and Jobs Plan – which the CLP Opposition opposed – will benefit the Territory greatly,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Hundreds of direct and indirect jobs will be created with millions of dollars injected into our economy.

“Small business will also benefit under the $42 billion plan through investment tax breaks – offsetting 10% of the costs associated with buying assets of more than $1000.”