Budget 2009 Focused On Protecting Territory Jobs

Treasurer Delia Lawrie today told Territory Parliament’s Estimates Committee that Budget 2009 will boost infrastructure spending to support Territory jobs.

“There is a clear point of difference between the Henderson Government and the CLP Opposition – we are supporting Territory jobs while the CLP would slash jobs,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Budget 2009 invests a record $1.3 billion to protect 2500 jobs in the construction sector to build vital infrastructure such as more roads, schools, houses and police stations.

“Strong employment in the construction sector has a positive multiplier effect on the rest of our economy, including more spending in our retail and tourism industries.

“The Territory Government made a deliberate decision to go into deficit to protect Territorians and our economy from the worst effects of the global financial crisis – a concept the CLP is yet to comprehend.

“The global financial crisis has resulted in a contraction of private sector spending and that is why Budget 2009 delivers an unprecedented $1.3 billion infrastructure spend – up $414 million or 47% higher than last year - to support jobs.

“Recent ABS data shows almost all of the 1000 jobs created in May were in full-time work and more Territorians have jobs than ever before - we are working hard to keep our jobs market strong but under the CLP the unemployment queues would grow and spending would be cut.

“We will continue to expand the Territory’s economic base and go after the big projects such as Inpex to support more Territory jobs and set our economy up for further growth opportunities in the future.”

The Henderson Government’s $1.3 billion infrastructure program includes:

- $322 million infrastructure investment for Territory roads and national highways;
- $331.5 million to improve power, water and sewerage services in 2009-10 as part of a $1.4 billion five year program;
- $390.3 million for housing projects;
- $118.9 million for new infrastructure projects;
- $30.4 million for prison and police facilities;
- $23.25 million to fund community infrastructure to support the great Territory lifestyle; and
- $20 million for headworks at Palmerston East suburbs.

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