19 June 2009

Record Spending Outlined At Budget Estimates

Record spending in health, education, police and infrastructure in Budget 2009 have been some of the key highlights during this week’s Budget Estimates hearings at Parliament House.

Treasurer Delia Lawrie today said she was looking forward to passing the Budget when Parliament resumes later today so the Henderson Government could get on with the job of protecting Territory jobs and building the Territory’s infrastructure for the future.

“Budget 2009 has a strong focus on supporting Territory jobs across the private and public sectors to withstand the worst effects of the global financial crisis,” Ms Lawrie said.

“We are investing an unprecedented $1.3 billion in infrastructure to support 2500 jobs across the economy to build 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.

“We made a deliberate decision to go into temporary 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.

“The Labor Government introduced the estimates process to ensure Government spending is transparent and accountable, and allowed 47 hours of direct questioning of Ministers and Government-owned corporations.

“We are proud of record budgets in core service areas of police, health and education which will increase and improve important frontline services as well as supporting Territory jobs.

“Budget 2009 also invests $5.13 million in skilling the workforce under the four year, $21.3 million Jobs Plan 3 to support 10,000 new apprentices and trainees getting jobs in the Territory.
“The Henderson Government will also protect Territory jobs and businesses against a backdrop of the global economic downturn by not raising or introducing new taxes.

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