28 January 2010

Payroll Tax Waiver for Flood Relief

Treasurer, Delia Lawrie, today announced the Territory Government will waive payroll tax for Northern Territory businesses which allow paid leave to NT employees who volunteer with the Queensland flood recovery efforts.

Ms Lawrie said this initiative would further encourage Territory businesses to support the recovery efforts.

“The toll from the floods continues to mount and is estimated at more than past major natural disasters including Cyclone Tracy and the Victorian Bushfires,” Ms Lawrie said.

“With more than 3.1 million people and 26,000 homes affected by the floods, the recovery effort to repair damaged homes and infrastructure will take many months and possibly years.

“I believe by waiving payroll tax for businesses which provide paid leave for employees who volunteer will further encourage Territorians to do their bit and help people in Queensland to rebuild their communities.

“Businesses which provide leave with pay for employees who volunteer with organisations including the Australian Red Cross are eligible for the waiver.”

“Territorians know better than most the devastating and lasting impact that natural disasters like cyclones and floods have on communities so it’s only fitting that we help Queenslanders to rebuild their communities following these extraordinary floods.”

Ms Lawrie said that today’s announcement comes after the Territory Government announced NT public servants who volunteer with organisations including the Red Cross will be eligible for leave with pay.

The Territory Government has donated half a million dollars to the Queensland Premiers Flood Relief Appeal and matched the NT News Saturday paper campaign dollar for dollar, providing $15,000.

The NT Government will host a special reception at Parliament House next month to thank Territory emergency workers, volunteers and community members who have helped in the flood recovery efforts.

For further information on the waiver, contact the Territory Revenue Office on 1300 305 253 or visit www.revenue.nt.gov.au.

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