NT Government to Fight for Fair Share of GST

The NT Government will fight for the Territory’s fair share of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) during a Review of the GST distribution announced by the Federal Government.

Treasurer Delia Lawrie today said the review presents significant challenges and an opportunity.

“The large states always argue for a larger slice of the GST pie but the Territory is a developing jurisdiction with a bright economic future but due to its small population, vast geographic area that presents service delivery complexities and significant Indigenous population the GST carve up should recognise these needs,” Ms Lawrie said.

“We welcome the reference to continuing the principles of equalising payments to the states and recognising the costs of providing services to regional areas as this is extremely important to smaller jurisdictions like the Territory.

“We also welcome the reference to continuing to address indigenous disadvantage in the GTS funding arrangements.

“Horizontal fiscal equalisation is the glue that binds the federation, ensuring that funding is shared fairly so all states and territories have equal capacity to fund infrastructure and services.”

Treasurer Delia Lawrie will be in Canberra next week to meet Federal Treasurer Wayne Swan and other State and Territory Treasurers at the Ministerial Council for Federal Financial Relations where the GST Distribution Review will be discussed.

Contact: Patrick Hastwell 0427 017 803