MEDIA RELEASE

LABOR MUST FIGHT GST CUTS

Willem Westra van Holthe MLA

Date 31st March 2011

The Chief Minister and Treasurer must seek a cast iron assurance from the Commonwealth that the Territory’s share of the GST carve-up will not be cut.

Shadow Treasurer, Willem Westra van Holthe, said he anticipates Paul Henderson and Delia Lawrie are as anxious about the Commonwealth’s review of the GST carve-up as he is.

“The premise for the review is to simplify the GST and make it fairer as well as create more incentives for economic growth and fewer incentives for underperformance,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“If there’s ever a Government that has underperformed, it is the Henderson Government, which is why I’m anxious about the review process that is currently underway.

The Chief Minister met with the Prime Minister last week to discuss GST revenues.

“I wonder whether the Prime Minister briefed Paul Henderson on the proposed review,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“If she didn’t, it shows Paul Henderson has made the Territory the Commonwealth’s lap-dog.

“Instead of allowing himself to be patronised by Julia Sillard, the Chief Minister should be fighting for the Territory to maintain a fair slice of the GST.

“Between 2000 and 2012, the Territory received $6899 per person under the GST carve-up – six times the next highest recipient.

“During that period it squandered the GST dividend instead of using the windfall to repay debt and position the Territory for the future.”

Further comment: Willem Westra van Holthe 0414 778 430