TREASURER

TERRITORY BUSINESSES WELCOME CHANGE

November 29th, 2012

Territory small business operators have given a tick to the election of the Country Liberals Government and long term plans to cut debt and get finances back on track.

Treasurer, Robyn Lambley, said the November quarter Sensis Business Index shows a surge in business confidence, with a net balance of 24 per cent of small business operators having a positive attitude towards Territory Government policy – the highest of all jurisdictions.

“The Country Liberals showed our commitment to small businesses with yesterday’s announcement that $100million will be re-directed in the mini-budget to repairs and maintenance of Government assets over the next four years,” Mrs Lambley said.

“Labor was focused on just one major project. Since being elcted, the Government has worked hard with stakeholders to secure work from the LNG project filters down to Territory small businesses.

“The Country Liberals Government wants to develop a three-hub economy in the Territory based on mining and energy, tourism and education and food exports.

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“The survey clearly shows Territory business operators wanted a new approach and a fresh start.

“While I acknowledge the impact the recent utilities tariff increases will have on businesses, it will allow the Government to redirect revenues away from repaying interest on debt to providing much-needed public works to support economic growth.

“Treasury forecasts that interest repayments will exceed $1million a day in coming years if debt is not reduced.

“That is money that could be spent with business operators developing infrastructure, building roads and maintaining assets.

“The Government tried to off-set some of the impacts of the utilities price rise by doubling funding to EcoBiz to assist business operators to find energy efficiencies.”

Media Contact:
Camden Smith 0488 588 754

www.nt.gov.au
GPO Box 3146, Darwin NT 0801