TERRITORY’S SHARE OF THE GST SAFE FOR NOW

December 6th, 2012

The Northern Territory government is cautiously optimistic about the findings in the Commonwealth’s GST distribution review panel final report.

“More than half the Territory’s total revenue is sourced from the GST and there was a great deal at stake for all Territorians in this report,” says Treasurer Robyn Lambley.

“While there are some areas of concern, the Report’s 23 findings and 31 recommendations are largely positive for the Northern Territory.

“The final report does not recommend significant changes to the current GST distribution arrangements and, overall, they are positive for the Territory.

“Importantly, the Review Panel considers that the proposals made by the large states for GST revenue to be distributed on an equal per capita basis as well as for the goal of equalisation to achieve comparable rather than same level of services are not viable options in the medium to short term.

“In addition, the final report has dismissed proposals by some states for Indigeneity to be removed from equalisation and to be funded directly by the Commonwealth.

“Overall, the report is in the best interests of the Northern Territory.

“I would like to commend the work done by the previous Labor Government, with the support of the Country Liberals, to fight against the proposed GST distributions.”

The final report is on the agenda for the next Standing Council on Federal Financial Relations meeting on December 17th in Canberra.

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