MEDIA RELEASE

Delia Lawrie
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

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RETAIL TRADE EXPOSES CLP PAIN ON TERRITORIANS

Further proof of tough times for Territorians under the CLP was received today with the release of April retail trade figures.

“At a time when retail trade is up in every other state of Australia, it’s sadly down in the NT under the CLP,” Opposition Leader Delia Lawrie said today.

Ms Lawrie said the retail figures reflect exactly what many small businesses are saying right across the Territory - they are hurting.

“With price hikes from the CLP Government biting across the board and 3600 jobs lost, people are struggling to make ends meet. Territorians just don’t have the funds to spend at the shops which is hurting our small businesses,” Ms Lawrie said.

This is the third monthly decline in a row in the Territory. In trend terms in April the rest of Australia is positive 0.4%, but in the NT the figure is negative 0.3%. On an annual basis Australia is recording positive growth at 3.2% with the NT greatly reduced at 0.8%.

“With the start of the Dry season retail spending should be up not down. This is exactly when the local economy should be gathering pace, but these figures prove the opposite is happening,” Ms Lawrie said.

"If businesses don’t have good retail months during the Dry, I worry for local businesses' survival during the leaner months of the Wet season.

“The CLP cuts and price hikes have been too harsh and too widespread. Territorians are hurting trying to make ends meet and with 3,600 full time jobs lost under the CLP people are also worried about job security.

The Government is simply making the Territory too expensive for many to live here."

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