Rudd delivers for Territory economic and social growth

Opposition Leader Delia Lawrie today welcomed Prime Minister Kevin Rudd’s commitment to set up the Northern Territory as a special economic zone to boost Territory business.

“Business is doing it tough under Adam Giles and the CLP. Kevin Rudd cutting company tax in the Territory by a third will help enormously,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Under the CLP, retail trade is down, housing approvals are at record lows, for six months straight unemployment has increased and the costs of doing business in the Territory is increasing at the highest rate in the nation. This is reflected in Sensis data which reports business confidence in the Territory has plummeted in the last 12 months, or, since the CLP came to Government.

“The CLP have increased their payroll tax take by $24 million, up by 13%. Their power price hikes are hurting every business, with flow on effects to families.

“The tax break will help Northern Territory businesses. Having a lower company tax rate than the rest of the country will encourage investment that will flow right down through our economy. It bodes well for more opportunities for small business and more jobs for Territorians.”

Ms Lawrie welcomed Prime Minister Rudd’s commitment to a 20-year infrastructure plan, critical to delivering economic prosperity across the regions and closing the gap of Indigenous disadvantage through tackling the tyranny of distance with improved infrastructure.

“The Federal Labor Government has invested billions in regional infrastructure through roads, schools, health clinics, housing and aerodromes ... all essential to improving the life of our regional and remote Territorians,” Ms Lawrie said.

“This infrastructure delivers jobs in the regions, opens up productivity through the beef, mining and tourism roads and delivers improved social outcomes.

“The Territory has a bright future. Kevin Rudd’s plan for the North makes it even brighter.”

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