Finances on the road to recovery

28 October 2014

The Treasurer’s Annual Financial Report shows the Giles Government is successfully nursing the Territory’s finances back to health.

“The General Government Sector Operating Balance is now in surplus by $119 million which is a $349 million improvement when compared to the original projections in the 2013-14 Budget,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

“This surplus position means that a crucial element of the Government’s fiscal strategy has been achieved a full three years ahead of the 2016-17 target.

“Under the Country Liberals, the Territory economy is going from strength to strength, recovering from 11 dire years of mismanagement under Labor’s incompetent stewardship."

There’s also been a $1.1 billion improvement in the Non-Financial Public Sector Fiscal Balance.

These improved operating outcomes have flowed through to the net debt position.

“Net debt is $3.1 billion for 2013-14, which I am delighted to report is $1.3 billion lower than the original 2013-14 Budget projection. It’s a massive improvement on the $5.5 billion in debt we inherited from Labor,” Mr Giles said.

“Under the Country Liberals the net debt to revenue ratio has declined to 53 per cent down, down from forecasts of 98 per cent. It’s a remarkable turn around.

“This report further stamps the Country Liberals’ credentials as strong economic managers.

“The achievement of a general government operating balance surplus, a full 3 years ahead of target, as well as a significantly reduced fiscal balance deficit and net debt position are proof that this Government is fiscally responsible and building a Territory economy for the future.

“This is yet more good news for the economy on the back of a swag of recent positive indicators for the Territory.”

The Northern Territory has again topped the nation in forecasts for economic and employment growth according the latest Deloitte Access Economics Business Outlook report.
Last week’s Commsec State of the States Report shows the Territory is leading the nation in five of the eight indicators including economic growth, retail spending, equipment investment, employment and construction.

The most recent Sensis Business Index also confirmed a 33 percentage point surge in confidence among small and medium Territory businesses.

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