Debits tax to be abolished

NT Treasurer Syd Stirling today joined other States and Territories in agreeing to abolish Debits Tax by July 1, 2005.

Mr Stirling said the tax, which raised $6.4 million for the Northern Territory in 2002-03, would be abolished in line with national tax reform.

Debits tax is a tax on withdrawals from accounts with a cheque facility and can range from 15 cents per withdrawal to $4.

It was originally introduced by the Commonwealth Government in 1982 and handed over to States and Territories in 1991.

“It’s pleasing to be able to abolish this tax, which impacts on both businesses and individual Territorians alike,” Mr Stirling said.

Mr Stirling criticised the Opposition Leader’s grandstanding on this issue.

“In a cheap attempt to score political points, Mr Mills has been jumping up and down about this issue today, saying the Territory Government should abolish the tax.

“But considering that his press release came out about two hours after Treasurers’ had agreed to scrap the tax, it was a fairly feeble attempt to make himself look relevant.”