The gap in the price of a selected basket of household goods between Darwin and other capital cities continues to decrease, according to the latest ABS "Average Retail Price of Selected Items" survey.

Treasurer Syd Stirling said the cost of a basket of goods in Darwin was just 28 cents higher than the cost of the same goods in Perth.

"Overall the cost of a basket of goods in Darwin was just over $11 more than the average of all capital cities at $282.79 compared with $271.77.

"Darwin was the most expensive city for just nine of the 55 items surveyed by the ABS.

"This is well down on the result four years ago when Darwin was the most expensive for 27 of the items surveyed.

"Darwin has again recorded the cheapest price for sausages of all capital cities.

"While inflation means the cost of most goods can be expected to rise across Australia, the good news is that Darwin prices are not rising at the same rate as in other capital cities.

The Government will continue to work to keep the costs of goods down with initiatives such as changes to payroll tax and completion of the railway which will lead to reduced freight costs.

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