SANTA RUSHED OFF HIS FEET AS TERRITORIANS STOCK UP FOR CHRISTMAS

In the strongest sign yet that the Territory is enjoying a spending spree this Christmas period, Business Minister Paul Henderson today confirmed that Santa Claus has been officially rushed off his feet.

“Santa has been flat-out meeting children which shows people are out buying presents,” he said.

“At Casuarina Shopping Square, the Territory’s largest retail facility, Santa has had more than 1,100 visits since the 2 December, with of those taking place last weekend.

“This is up significantly on previous years and it’s great to see so many families out buying presents and supporting local business - it another sign of the strong economic activity we are experiencing.”

Mr Henderson said Territory businesses are expected to record one of their best, if not their best, Christmas following a strong economic year.

“In key areas such as construction, employment, job advertising, motor vehicle sales and retail we recorded strong growth - this is expected to drive a shopping spree which is great for business,” he said.

“Our year-on-year monthly retail figures continue to outshine the national average and, with our population now at its highest ever level of over 202,000 people, we expect strong spending levels.

“I was pleased to see comments by the Chamber of Commerce that people are spending up big across the Territory as a result of our good economic year.”

Casuarina Shopping Centre Manager, Craig Osborne, said the Centre is trading very well in the lead-up to Christmas.

“With our newly opened JB Hi Fi, Bi Rite, Budget Eyewear, Shnoodle, Donut King and Tarocash we are expecting a bumper Christmas this year,” Mr Osborne said.

“To meet demand we have extended our trading hours till midnight on the 23 December and we expect traffic to steadily increase over this week. The most popular gifts this year are Robo Raptors and Robo Sapiens, board games, Harry Potter products, playstations and DVDs.”

Mr Henderson said that the Sensis Business Index released last month showed that Territory businesses have the second highest level of confidence in their future in the country, and the nation’s highest levels of confidence in sales and profitability growth over the coming year.

“We are working to create jobs, new business and a strong economy that can be enjoyed at Christmas.”

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