21 July 2005

TERRITORY MOTOR VEHICLE SALES STRONG

Sales of leisure vehicles and commercial utes and trucks have helped the Territory record the highest growth in new motor vehicle sales in the year to June.

According to ABS data, the Territory recorded a 10.6% increase in new vehicle sales (original data) during the year, with sales going from 8397 to 9289.

Treasurer Syd Stirling said new motor vehicle sales had been strengthening steadily since January 2002, reflecting growing consumer confidence.

“Sales of sport utility vehicles (SUVs) have particularly strengthened (from 1.4% in 2003-04 to 20.3% in 2004-05),” he said.

“The sale of utes, other light commercial vehicles, trucks and buses has also improved markedly over that period (from 5.3% to 19.3%), making the biggest contribution to total growth in new motor vehicle sales in 2004-05.

“This has been offset to some extent by a drop in commercial vehicle sales (from 13.2% to 2.4%).

“The increased sales of leisure vehicles, such as all-wheel drives and 4WDs, suggest Territorians are continuing to make the most of our great lifestyle.

“Growth in commercial vehicle sales also indicates that local businesses are feeling confident about their future.

“Territory motor vehicle sales experienced a significant slump some years ago, but these figures suggest there has been a strong recovery, in line with our strengthening economy.”

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