Northern Territory Economy Continues To Grow

Treasurer Delia Lawrie today welcomed a raft of economic data that shows the Northern Territory is well placed to withstand the global financial crisis.

The Reserve Bank’s one per cent cut to official interest rates to 4.25 per cent came on the same day new population and retail trade figures were released.

“The Northern Territory’s economy continues to grow on the back of strong retail spending and continued population growth,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Retail spending grew by 11.3 per cent during the past year to $203 million – well above the two per cent national average.

“The Territory’s population also grew by 2.34 per cent to 219,948 in the year to June – matching Queensland and second to Western Australia’s 2.71 per cent growth in population.

“Since 2005, the Territory has experienced sustained strong population growth, primarily due to demand created by major employment-generating projects.

“This sustained level of population growth last occurred in the mid 1990s following the Australian Government’s policy decision to relocate defence personnel to northern Australia.

“The Northern Territory’s economy continues to outperform other Australian jurisdictions while the rest of the world is in the midst of a global financial crisis.

“I know thousands of Territorians will also welcome the Reserve Bank’s early Christmas present in the form of a one per cent cut to interest rates.

“Today’s rate cut is set to save Territorians an average of $135 each month on the average $200,000 mortgage – and $419 in total since rates began to fall in September.

“The Henderson Government is committed to stimulating growth in our economy despite the global financial crisis and today’s rate cut will have far-reaching benefits for many people.

“We will continue delivering our 10 year infrastructure program and meet our election commitments.

“And our Buildstart scheme is also designed to stimulate economic activity - providing more jobs and housing options for our growing population.”

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