Delia Lawrie  
TREASURER

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Territorians Urged to Spend Christmas Dollars in NT Businesses

Territorians were today urged to support Territory businesses and buy local this Christmas.

Treasurer, Delia Lawrie, said while the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics Retail Trade figures for October 2009 out today were positive for Territory businesses, urging Christmas shoppers to buy local this festive season.

“Today’s figures show the Territory recorded a 1.8 per cent growth rate in retail turnover for October, the strongest in Australia,” Ms Lawrie said.

“There was $220 million spent in Territory businesses in October driven by 18.2 per cent increase in spending in café, restaurants and takeaway food, 8.3 per cent increase in other recreational goods and household goods up by 8 per cent.

“In the year to October 2009 there has been an 11 per cent increase in retail trade compared to the year to October 2008 – also the highest growth rate in the nation.

“Its not surprising that our retail trade growth is the strongest in the nation as it’s being driven by the Territory’s strong economy with about 4000 more Territorians employed than at the same time last year.

“However while these figures are promising, Territory businesses have felt the effects of the worst global recession in more than 70 years.

“While the there are signs the global economy is recovering, I encourage Territorians to spend within their means and to continue to support Territory businesses and shop locally in the lead up to Christmas.”

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