YOU FIX THE ROOF WHEN THE SUN IS SHINING

The Martin Government’s 2006/07 budget surplus announced today rests more on good luck than good management, says the Territory Opposition.

“The only reason the Martin Government recorded a budget surplus was because it received more revenue than it expected,” says Jodeen Carney, Leader of the Opposition.


“At the same time the Territory Government spent $154 million more than it had budgeted for.

“Had there not been a surge in tax receipts the budget would have been $115 million in the red.

“Of that additional tax revenue collected, $32 million was extracted from Territory taxpayers, including ‘increased fine collections arising from the Road Safety Initiative’ (p 11, TAFR). The rest was from the Federal Government.

“It’s misleading of the Treasurer to make the claim that the budget surplus was the result of tight fiscal policy.

“I note employee expenses continue to rise, blowing out by $63 million to $1.299 billion.

“Annual revenue for the Territory Government in 2002-03 was $2.3 billion, last financial year it reaped $3.3 billion.

“What has a happened is that it’s been raining money in the past year and the Treasurer is now boasting about getting wet.

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