

Backing Territory Business

Through its own infrastructure-related expenditures, the Territory Government will be providing work for contractors and suppliers to the value of around \$645 million in 2007-08 on projects from small to very large. Simpler Government procurement arrangements should make it easier for firms to do business with Government and tap into tendering opportunities.

Government's commitment to lowering business taxes is demonstrated with its abolition of all duty on hiring arrangements as well as scrapping two low value stamp duties, which were costly and tedious for business to comply with. These changes demonstrate the Territory's commitment to reducing red tape and increasing business competition, agreed under the National Reform Agenda with all other governments as part of growing our national productivity and capacity.

Several other measures have reduced red tape for business, including simplified thresholds and processes for tenderers pursuing Government contracts, and providing online capability for paying taxes and finding business-related information from Government.

Investment in key economic drivers, such as transport, utilities, health, education and tourism infrastructure will be at record levels in 2007-08, with major projects such as the Red Centre Way, Victoria Highway, middle schools facilities, Desert People's Centre and Alice Springs Hospital upgrades, and \$35 million extra for road repairs and maintenance across the Territory over the next four years.

The Territory Budget is designed to provide a solid base for growth in the economy, beyond the construction phase of mega projects, to sustained productivity and wealth.



Key Growth Forecasts

Year on Year Percentage Change	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	estimate 2006-07	forecast 2007-08
Real GSP	0.2	0.2	6.0	7.5	7.2	3.7
Resident employment	-0.1	-2.2	-2.0	4.0	4.4	2.3
Population ¹	0.1	0.3	1.2	2.0	1.6	1.4
Darwin CPI ²	2.2	2.1	1.6	2.6	4.4	3.0

1 As at December, annual percentage change

2 As at December