



GARY HIGGINS
OPPOSITION LEADER

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For immediate circulation

GST carve-up: Focus on Indigenous disadvantage welcomed

The Northern Territory Opposition welcomes the GST distribution calculation model announced this morning, which is good news for the Northern Territory and Territorians.

Leader of the Opposition, Gary Higgins said that the confirmed calculations of GST, and planned top-up for the Northern Territory means Territorians will not lose out.

“The Northern Territory will receive \$69 million in additional top-ups in 2019-20, and a \$189 million boost to their share of the GST distribution pool between 2021-22 and 2026-27.

“This is in addition to financial assistance in this year’s Budget of \$259.6 million to help the Northern Territory Government deliver essential services, including to remote communities.

“This is a clear win for the Territory, which is home to some of Australia’s most remote and disadvantaged people.

“I am glad the Opposition’s lobbying, including our presentations to the Productivity Commission have been heard loud and clear.

“We acknowledge and welcome the planned top-up of Federal funding and welcome the priority focus on Indigenous disadvantage (*Recommendation 9.1*).

“Territorians deserve equal access to services like the rest of Australia, and put simply, we cannot afford to do more with less money.

“Despite commentary to the contrary, the Opposition does not want the Northern Territory to lose one cent of GST,” said Mr Higgins.

ENDS

NOTE: Recommendation 9.1 (page 44 of Report) - Policies to address Indigenous disadvantage should be a priority.

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