



**GARY HIGGINS**  
**OPPOSITION LEADER**

**Media Release**  
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*For immediate circulation*

**Business confidence – Territory trailing**

Today's Sensis Business Index (SBI) survey paints a bleak picture of the Territory economy.

The Territory trails all other states and territories in the survey's rank of business confidence. Business confidence in the Northern Territory is also now at its second lowest in four years.

Northern Territory small businesses, which make up 95 per cent of all Northern Territory businesses, recorded the only negative perception of the economy in Australia.

Leader of the Opposition, Gary Higgins said that the Sensis Business Index reinforced economic concerns, and mirrored commentary from the Territory business community.

"These latest statistics further show a sliding economy, just last week illustrated by the *CommSec State of the States* report and property vacancy figures.

"As a government, it is Labor's responsibility to be eager to attract private investment, and in doing so, it should cut the red tape and unnecessary hold ups to ensure projects are being implemented as quickly as possible.

"Territorians are looking for leadership, not for an increase in the cost of doing business and cost of living," said Mr Higgins.

**State Ranking of Business Confidence (December Quarter 2017)**

State	Rank	Change	Overall Score
Tasmania	1	+10	+60
ACT	2	-8	+52
New South Wales	3	-4	+46
Victoria	4	-7	+43
Queensland	5	+1	+43
South Australia	6	-2	+34
Western Australia	7	-1	+31
<b>Northern Territory</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-14</b>	<b>+12</b>
<u>National Average</u>	<u>N / A</u>	<u>-4</u>	<u>+42</u>

**ABOVE:** State Ranking of Business Confidence by Sensis.

**ENDS**

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