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02/01/2007

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**DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER
TREASURER**

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The Hon Peter Dutton MP
 Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer
 GPO Box 6022
 CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

RECEIVED	
Office of the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer	
SIGNATORY	
<input type="checkbox"/> Assistant Treasurer	<input type="checkbox"/> Adviser
<input type="checkbox"/> Chief of Staff	<input type="checkbox"/> DLO (ATO)
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Adviser	<input type="checkbox"/> DLO (PSY)
ACTION	
<input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledge	<input type="checkbox"/> Briefing
<input type="checkbox"/> Substantive Response	<input type="checkbox"/> Speech
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Refer to
<input type="checkbox"/> Information	<input type="checkbox"/> No further action
<input type="checkbox"/> Constituent	<input type="checkbox"/> URGENT

Thank you for your letter of 4 January 2007, which sought my approval concerning a number of changes to existing tourist shopping arrangements. I note that four of the proposals detailed in your letter constitute a change to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) base.

In particular, I support your proposals to amend the GST regulations to allow for the aggregation of multiple invoices from single retailers to achieve the minimum spending threshold of \$300 and extend the 'sealed bag' scheme and maximum time for goods to be exported to 60 days. These simple measures are likely to provide a significant boost to tourism in the Northern Territory and within Australia generally.

I do not support your proposal to outsource the Tourist Refund Scheme function to private providers to promote and manage GST refunds and charge tourists a fee on their refund for the service provided. At this stage, no pressing case for change has been made that would justify the significant cost to the Territory.

Yours sincerely

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SYD STIRLING

2nd February '07



Northern Territory Government

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