

More travel the answer

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EVERY chief minister should visit Greece.

Every Ethnic Affairs minister should go to Greece, and for that matter any country where there may be an interest in migration — particularly to the Territory.

I went to Greece, Everingham went twice, Burke and Hatton once. Greek Territorians are important members of our community — as are the Italians, Chinese and so forth.

The Territory needs people — our economy is suffering as a direct consequence of low population growth.

We are poised to lose a federal seat — our voice in Canberra — because of declining population.

Ministerial travel is not a waste of money — it's about promoting the Territory.

Ministerial travel, properly done, is hard work.

The fact the Government might assist some of its citizens to accompany such visits, or host functions and events while abroad is a fact of life. Where the story goes wrong is when ministers attempt to tell a story that's not the least bit convincing — like increasing trade between Greece and the Territory.

Better to be up front and tell it as it is — the trip to Greece is important because of our history, it's also important in that other Greeks may feel that they would like to live and work in the Territory and help us expand our economy.

For the record, I don't believe Clare Martin and her ministers travel enough to promote the Territory — particularly into the region of the Asia Pacific.

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