REPAIRING LABOR’S MAINTENANCE FUNDING SHORTFALL

28 October, 2012

Infrastructure Minister Adam Giles today committed to the Territory Government supporting jobs for small businesses and tradies through ramping up the repairs and maintenance budget.

Mr Giles said an extra $100 million will be spent by the NT Government over the next four years on repairs and maintenance of Government assets.

He said all business operators or home owners realise the need to maintain value in built assets by spending money on essential repairs, but not the former Labor Government which neglected this vital funding and failed the large number of Territorians for whom it also provides jobs.

“The figures taken from the previous Treasurer, and now Opposition Leader’s own budget reveals repairs and maintenance was under-funded by $92 million in 2012-13,” Mr Giles said.

“Examples of Labor’s waste, debt and mismanagement are now being found across all Government services.

“They did not provide money responsibly for essential programs or for the money needed to support our plumbers, painters, sparkies and repairmen and women.

“Whether that is the electrician in Malak who fixes the lights in the hospital or the carpenter from Wanguri who fixes government office doors or the Larapinta painter who keeps our schools in fresh coats of paint, all these tradespeople rely heavily on repairing and maintaining these assets to support themselves and their families.”

Mr Giles said on top of the current repairs and maintenance funding, the Territory Country Liberals Government will provide an extra $100 million over the next four years to support the family businesses that are the lifeblood of our community.

He said the Territory Government will provide an extra $10 million in 2012-13; extra $20 million in 2013-14; $30 million in 2014-15; and an additional $40 million in 2015-16 for this important work.

The extra $10 million to be spent this year will be split between Health ($2.6 million); Police ($1.5 million) and Education ($5.9 million).

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