Treasurer Robyn Lambley has extended a formal invitation to meet with the organisers of a public rally in Darwin this weekend targeting Territory utility increases.

Ms Lambley said she contacted the organisers after she was unable to attend the rally in person.

“Due to pre-arranged appointments in Alice Springs, I informed the organisers I would be unable to speak at their rally,” Ms Lambley said.

“However, I emailed the organisers and also had the Speaker’s office telephone them with the offer of a face to face meeting with me prior to the rally to hear their concerns.

“I am disappointed to report that this offer was declined by the organisers.

“I would have appreciated the opportunity to speak with the organisers in person and explain the mountain of debt left behind by the Labor Party which led to our decision to raise utility tariffs.

“I understand these increases will be difficult for families, households and businesses but the cost of paying extraordinary high interest repayments on Labor’s debt is far greater.

“If we did not take the immediate action we have, Territorians would soon be paying interest repayments of $1million dollars a day on Labor’s debt.

“This is money that should be spent on better services for Territorians.

“Had the organisers accepted my invitation of a face to face meeting I would have also showed them the letter from the former Treasurer and now Opposition Leader, Delia Lawrie, to Power Water Corporation in April 2011 detailing plans to raise tariff prices herself should Labor have retained government at the August election.”

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