EVIDENCE LACKING TO SUPPORT POWERWATER SPLIT

Shadow Minister for Essential Services, Nicole Manison, said the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) inquiry today has received no cost benefit analysis into the planned CLP split of PowerWater Corporation.

“Today’s inquiry is scrutinising proposed legislation to split PowerWater,” Ms Mansion said.

“It was revealed today that the cost of this split will be $2.8 million this year with a further expected cost of $4 million next year – a figure that is significantly higher than the $2 million Dave Tollner plucked out of the air.”

Ms Mansion said it was concerning that neither the Department of the Chief Minister nor Treasury had provided a cost benefit analysis and questioned what evidence the Government was relying on to proceed with the split.

"Despite the split of PowerWater being a major policy for the CLP Government, no evidence of benefit to Territorians has been provided," Ms Mansion said.

“The service delivery arrangements required for this split will directly impact Territorians and they deserve to know what these new arrangements will look like.”

Ms Manison said that it has been made clear in the hearing that profits were a motivation for the split.

“PowerWater’s profitability is clearly a factor in the CLP Government’s move to split the asset,” Ms Manison said.

“The CLP Government is treating PowerWater like a cash cow rather than the essential service that it is.

“With Territorians facing record high utility bills they cannot afford for the CLP Government to keep putting profits before people.”

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