MEDIA RELEASE

Gerry McCarthy
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

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CLP DELIVERS CUTS TO BUSH SERVICES

Shadow Treasurer, Gerry McCarthy, said today the CLP Government has shown its true colours in this Budget, abandoning its pretense of delivering jobs and economic security to the bush.

“The CLP won Government on the back of the bush and they are not even pretending to meet their commitments and keep their promises,” Mr McCarthy said.

“Instead we are seeing cuts to services, less support for primary health care out bush, uncertainty about funding for important initiatives like child and family centres.

“There’s no action on issues like more jobs, more traineeships, more support to secondary education delivered in the bush and health service like mobile dental clinics and improved morgue facilities.

“This Government has failed to re-negotiate the Remote Service National Partnership Agreement that ends in June this year, with millions of dollars lost to bush communities.

“Last year Adam Giles said his approach to tackling Indigenous disadvantage was all about jobs, jobs, jobs.

“This Budget has people in the bush asking where, where, where.”

Mr McCarthy said the Budget realities for the bush include:

• Remote primary health care slashed by $23 million in the Top End and by $8 million in Central Australia;
• Forcing children and families to leave home and country and move to town to get a secondary education;
• Roads repairs and maintenance down by $19 million across the board;
• Just one year committed to supporting a local government jobs package;
• $12 million cuts to Indigenous housing repairs and maintenance

“Couple these with the cutbacks from the Federal Abbott Government and Indigenous Territorians end up bearing a disproportionate share of the Budget pain,” Mr McCarthy said.
“Savage cuts of more than $500 million to Commonwealth Indigenous programs will not only impact directly on Indigenous families, they will have a wider effect on the economies of our regional towns.

“An increase in the petrol excise, paying to go to the GP or a hospital ED, a freeze in Federal Assistance Grants to local government, cuts to schools and health clinic funding all hit hard in remote communities.

“Adam Giles promised to give Indigenous Territorians a voice but he’s turning a deaf ear to what they are telling him.”

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