Delia Lawrie today said it has taken a visit by Canberra-based Senator Nigel Scullion to highlight the need for more commitment by the CLP Government to Territorians affected by the Cyclone Lam – calling on the CLP to step up and meet the standards required of other States and Territories in line with national disaster recovery agreements.

“Adam Giles didn’t want to ask for defence force assistance with initial disaster recovery and is now exposed for being too slow in outlining real plans for replacement of over 70 destroyed homes at Galiwin’ku, housing over 250 adults and kids, as well as damaged homes and school classrooms at Milingimbi and Ramingining,” said Ms Lawrie.

“Sadly for Territorians, the Giles government has developed a reputation for slow delivery of government-funded projects; a direct consequence of chaos and instability in his government and the failure of revolving ministers to take responsibility

“The continuing delays on the construction of Palmerston Hospital is a key example, where Federal milestone payments are at risk.

“We have also seen continuing delays in delivering new and refurbished health clinics in the bush – work funded by Labor in 2012/13.

“Adam Giles needs to shift focus from shoring up his own political support with recreation and lifestyle budget announcements and refocus on disaster recovery and the basic requirement of safe and appropriate housing for cyclone affected families.

“Adam Giles can’t just put his hand out and ask for an open cheque. He has to show a real commitment to Territorians in one of our largest remote towns and commit funds for cyclone recovery, not just relying on the good will of others, such as the NSW Rural Fire Service and their emergency tent city.

“Families affected by Cyclone Lam want to see real plans for real houses, not just tents and dongas.

“Adam Giles and Housing Minister Bess Price are totally failing Territorians through their inability to win necessary federal support for critical housing in the bush, including replacement housing in cyclone affected communities and the next then year housing program.”

Media Contact: Sonia Peters 0437 762 881