15th June 2005

POWER FACTS – LABOR’S FAILURE TO PROVIDE EXPERTS COMMENT

POWER FACT 1.

The Energy Supply Association of Australia has forecast that future electricity demand for the Territory was likely to treble by 2020.

In August 2002 the managing director of the ESAA said projected demand growth in the Territory was higher than any other state or Territory. He said that:

“..this level of demand growth will require careful attention to power supply planning in the Territory and to having in place policies to ensure supply infrastructure where and when it is required, and at prices commensurate with consumer needs for reliable supply.”

Even more than in the rest of Australia, he said, Northern Territory electricity consumption growth would be driven by business expansion. In the Northern territory electricity demand by business today amounts to 73 percent of total consumption. In the high scenario modeled, NT business demand in 2020 will be 84 percent of all consumption.

“This demonstrates that a reliable, cost competitive supply of electricity and business growth – therefore employment – are closely linked in the Northern Territory, as elsewhere in Australia.”

Clare Martin and Labor have done nothing to deal with the future demand for electricity in the Territory except to freeze the current high prices. Further they cannot guarantee further gas for Channel Island when current supplies dry up by the end of the decade.
POWER FACT 2.

In the Territory families are charged a flat rate tariff of 14.02 cent/kWh and have a fixed daily charge of 27.62 cents.

In Queensland for the March quarter 2005 families are charged 9.3 cents/kWh during the day and a night rate of 5.9 cents/kWh with no extra charges.

For a family that uses 2500 kWh per quarter in Queensland the power bill would be $199.36 based on 1525 kWh on the day rate and 975 kWh based on the night rate.

In the Territory that same family would pay $356.50 per quarter.

That means in the Territory families are paying $176 or 88% more than their Queensland counterparts.

Only the Country Liberal Party has a plan to drive down electricity bills by 30% by connecting to the National Grid to access cheaper Queensland electricity.

And by doing so we will secure a long term and reliable source of power to meet the forecast trebling of demand for electricity in the Territory.

Connecting to the Grid will stimulate jobs and investment, open up our mineral provinces and underpin our unique way of life by driving down the cost of living.

POWER FACT THREE

The price differential between Queensland and the Territory is what makes the powerline commercially viable.

Only the CLP has a plan to tap into the Queensland electricity market.

Attached is a statement by Dr Tony Cook who oversaw the development of two of Australia’s HVDC powerlines where he comments on the viability of HVDC as a technology and the viability of the proposed powerline.