1st of February 2005

Listen to Territorians Chief Minister – And Don’t Bury Fuel Price Inquiry

The Leader of the Opposition Terry Mills today called on the Chief Minister to guarantee Territorians that the results from the fuel price inquiry will be available before the next election and that they are not buried in similar fashion to many other government reports.

Mr Mills said, “The announcement this week that the Martin government will finally listen to Territorians and hold an inquiry into fuel prices is meaningless if nothing is completed before the next Territory election.

“As a result of public pressure, the Chief Minister has decided to hold an inquiry and most Territorians know that it is well overdue.

“As Opposition Leader, Clare Martin was very vocal in calling for an inquiry and between June 2000 and May 2001, she asked no less than ten separate questions in Parliament addressing the high cost of fuel in the Territory.

“Now, under increasing public pressure and a looming Territory election, the Chief Minister has finally acted after almost four years in government.

“All Territorians will be waiting in anticipation as to the terms of reference and I call on the Chief Minister to guarantee that the results and findings will be available for public consumption before the next Territory election.

“It is essential that the public is aware of why fuel prices are so high in the Territory and the inquiry must be completed and made public and not buried. The Territory public is still waiting for action on the secondary education review, several Department of Business, Industry and Resources discussion papers and now we see the Minister for Mines and Energy not prepared to release the review of his department.

“To not do this will mean they will just bury the report like so many others they have since being elected to government”.

ENDS