4th July 2005

**If Only Virgin Listened to the Chief Minister!**

According to the Chief Minister, if Virgin Airlines had listened to the Chief Minister they would not have pulled so many services from the Territory!

This comes on the top of Clare Martin’s promises to get Singapore Airlines and Malaysian Airlines flying out of Darwin over a year ago which are nowhere to be seen.

Shadow Tourism Minister Fay Miller said that Clare Martin will go down in history as the biggest promising Minister that delivered so little in the history of Territory Tourism.

Mrs. Miller said, “In Opposition Clare Martin continually bagged the CLP for its Tourism direction. Now she must eat her words.

“Under the CLP, Tourism was a top-of-the-shelf quality project that people identified with and knew where the Territory was. In four years Clare Martin has managed to reduce this to a product that is struggling for air.

“Since Clare Martin became Tourism Minister, it would appear that the only people who know where the Territory is are her direct relatives!

“For the last four years, we have seen declines in visitor numbers, time spent here and a reduction in local jobs. That spells four years of failure. Even the Top End Tourism Commission are seeing less ‘walk-throughs’ than last year.

“The bottom line comes down to: If there are bums on seats then people will come here and airlines will put on flights. If no-one comes here then airlines cannot put on flights – hence Virgin Blue pulling out.

“Gee, if only Virgin Blue had listened to Clare Martin and her version of Territory Tourism, we wouldn’t be seeing less visitors, less international visitors and fewer flights to the Territory.”