Terry Mills
Leader of the Country Liberals

Media Release

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LABOR’S $300 MILLION LIE

The Country Liberals have accused Labor of breaking its promise to build a new $300 million prison in the Darwin region in the next 4 years.

“Breaking a promise within 5 months of making it must be a record even for this mendacious administration,” says Terry Mills, Leader of the Country Liberals

On April the 9th the Justice Minister, Chris Burns, promised that “Stage one will have capacity for 800 inmates and is expected to be operational by 2011-12.”

In this year’s May budget the Treasurer committed to commencing work on detailed design of a new 1000-bed prison in Darwin. (Budget speech)

The only money committed in the budget for prison construction was $14 million to – construct short and medium term accommodation to meet rising prisoner numbers in Darwin and Alice Springs 13 900 (Budget Paper No 4)

Yesterday’s costings released by Labor have capital commitments of just $86 million in the next 4 years and just $540,000 this year.

“No money in the budget, no money in Labor’s election promises, no prison,” says Terry Mills.

“This means Labor’s promises on law and order are a complete sham.

“Without a new prison by 2011/12 the revolving door of the courts will just swinging.

“Labor has real form on promising projects without delivering.

“Tomorrow will mark the end of the third election campaign in which Labor has promised an Oncology Unit. 8 years later more than 3000 Territorians have died of cancer and still cancer patients need to fly south for radiation oncology treatment.

“The people of the Territory are sick and tired of being played for fools by Labor.”