Dave Tollner
Shadow Minister for Employment
Media Release

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ACCESSING THE TRUTH

Today’s Access Economic Report into the state of the Territory economy contains some troubling news on the jobs front, says the Territory Opposition.

“Access Economics sees the unemployment rate in the Territory doubling to 8% within the next 12 months,” says Dave Tollner, Shadow Minister for Employment.

“That figure should see alarm bells ringing in the Henderson Government.

“The Henderson Government’s belief that the Territory would be immune from the full impact of the global recession has led to a dangerous complacency amongst senior Government ministers.

“High rates on unemployment will have devastating impacts on individuals, families and the broader community.

“A sharp increase in the rate of unemployment will be particularly hard felt amongst the lower skilled in the Territory economy.

By way of explanation for increasing unemployment Access notes that housing approvals are now falling, and so too are approvals of new commercial and engineering work. Moreover, the new Convention Centre is partially complete, while the tourist trade is suffering from a lack of visitors, and population growth is also off its peaks.

“Access also notes the low rate of house building approvals is hurting home buyers and renters in the Territory.”
The Top End’s population growth and underlying requirements for housing are considerably greater than Tasmania and the ACT – yet it is seeing only half the amount of building. That explains why Darwin has the lowest rental vacancy rate in the country, and a median house price above every State capital outside Sydney.

“Labor’s drip feed land release policies have been a terrible burden on many Territorians.”

Further comment: David Tollner 0414 690 109