THE COST OF DEBT

The Henderson and Rudd Labor governments are saddling all Territorians with levels of debt that will drag down growth and slow economic development for decades to come.

Shadow Treasurer John Elferink said the Commonwealth and Territory governments had combined to rack up record levels of debt – but both have shown an obvious reluctance to admit to maxing out the credit card.

“I notice that Federal Treasurer Wayne Swan – like his boss Kevin Rudd – has been tying himself into knots to avoid actually saying the debt he’s lumped on Australians,” Mr Elferink said.

“Well if he can’t say it, I’ll do it for him. At the end of the forward estimates period in 2012-13, Australia will carry a massive $188billion in debt – that’s $9000 for every man, woman and child.

“Add Commonwealth superannuation to that, and the figure is around $14,000 per person.”

Mr Elferink said the situation in the Northern Territory was even worse.

“I notice in her budget speech that Treasurer Delia Lawrie also stopped short of saying the projected debt figure,” he said.

“Labor squandered more than a billion dollars in additional GST revenues from the Commonwealth over the past eight years, and by 2012-13 will have racked up net debt to $2.7billion – that’s $12,290 for every man, woman and child.

“Add to that the Territory’s massive superannuation liability and the total debt figure at the end of the forward estimates is $6.37billion – about $29,000 for every man, woman and child.”
Mr Elferink said combining the Territory’s total debt with Commonwealth debt means every single Territorian owes about $38,000 in debt.

“This will restrict growth in the Territory for years to come,” he said.

“At the moment the Government pays about $115 million a year interest on debt and about $134 million on superannuation – a total of about $250 million.

“That’s almost the entire Police, Fire and Emergency Services budget and would build a lot of roads, hospitals and schools.”

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