PRICES RISE, PAY GOES DOWN

The latest Australian Bureau of Statistics grocery price survey again rates Darwin as the most expensive capital city in the country.

Shadow Treasurer, John Elferink, said of the 51 items listed in the survey, Darwin was the most expensive place to buy 24 of them.

“In Opposition, the Labor Party was forever banging on about reducing the cost of grocery prices in the Northern Territory,” Mr Elferink said.

“The then Country Liberal Party Government introduced a quarterly grocery price survey which, when Labor won Government, they realised they were making no inroads into grocery prices and stopped issuing press releases, hoping nobody would notice.

Mr Elferink said the survey comes on the back of Darwin’s 2.7% inflation rate – the country’s highest – as well as the Henderson Government’s 25% increase in the cost of electricity and 60% hike in water.

“That’s not to mention the cost of buying a house in the Territory, which is increasingly beyond the reach of many dual income families and will continue to be so as interest rates go up,” Mr Elferink said.

“The increase in Darwin in the last 12 months is 12.3% - three times as much as the average salary increase.

“As well, the cost of renting a house or unit in Darwin is the highest in the country.”

Mr Elferink said today’s figures highlight the lack of faith shown by the Henderson Government in capping public sector pay rises at 2.5%.

“A year out from negotiations and with prices rising in all sectors, the Henderson Government is telling hard-working public servants that, effectively, they’ve got to take a pay cut.

“Prices will only continue to rise – and public servants have every right to ask why the Labor Government is treating them with so little respect.”

Further comment: John Elferink 0418 406 400