The Treasurer must stop drip-feeding bad news to Territory families and businesses and explain where she plans to make cuts in the May budget.

Shadow Treasurer, John Elferink, said Delia Lawrie’s dire warnings of a tough budget should now be supported with details of just what cuts Labor will make.

“It’s no secret the Territory budget is in tatters – what is secret is how Delia Lawrie and the Labor Government plan to fix the problem,” Mr Elferink said.

“Faced with a $250million deficit this financial year and predicted $174million deficit in 2010-11, Delia Lawrie has to put a lid on economic uncertainty and explain exactly how she intends to reign in the deficit.

“If she is serious about reaching her budget targets, Delia Lawrie will either have to cut from the budget or borrow. In either scenario, Territorians will have to pay.

“This is the mark Labor has left on the Territory through its profligate spending – and appalling lack of restraint – during almost 10 years in Government.”

Mr Elferink said he was disappointed the Treasurer had lost the battle against the other jurisdictions over Commonwealth Grants Commission allocations.

“Obviously, Delia Lawrie doesn’t carry much weight with her Labor colleagues when it comes to protecting the Territory’s income,” he said.

“While the larger states got an increased slice of the GST pie, the Territory’s share has been cut.”

Further comment: John Elferink 0418 406 400