DRILLING DOWN ON SUPER PROFITS TAX
Terry Mills MLA
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The Henderson Government’s stand-alone support for Kevin Rudd’s Resources Super Profits Tax will be the focus of Opposition scrutiny during this week’s Parliamentary sittings.

“The Henderson Government continues to support the Super Tax while other key resource-based jurisdictions want it changed or scrapped,” said Opposition Leader Terry Mills.

“With the Western Australian, Queensland and South Australian governments unhappy with the tax and polling showing 78% of voters in marginal seats want it changed or dropped, the Territory Labor Government must explain why it’s so out of step with community sentiment.

“It must also produce modelling to back-up its view the tax will have no impact on the Territory economy.

“Calls by Resources Minister Kon Vatskalis for the Commonwealth to consult with the resources sector are the political equivalent of being tickled with a feather.

“Only a concerted campaign by State and Territory governments and industry will force the Commonwealth to abandon the 40% slug.

“But instead of showing a united front, the Territory has opted to throw its support behind the Commonwealth.

“With resources contributing 26.5% to the Territory’s Gross State Product – the highest proportion in the country – it beggars belief that Labor isn’t concerned about the potential for reduced investment and job losses as a result of the tax.

“Instead, the Government seems more interested in protecting the job of Solomon MHR Damian Hale.”

Mr Mills said the Country Liberals would also use Question Time to seek answers from Environment Minister Karl Hampton about the latest pollution scandal in Darwin Harbour.

“Why is it Darwin City Council was able to detect pollution in Darwin beaches when the Government could not?” he said.

“And if the unacceptably high e-coli levels were caused by the Ludmilla Treatment Plant, is the Government in breach of its own Water Act?

“As well, is the Government adhering to the conditions contained in the Waste Management and Pollution Control Act?

“The Minister needs to explain to Territorians how regularly it tests water in the Harbour, and what caused the damaging outbreak in the first place.”

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