Territorians will be lumbered with Government debt for decades to come as a result of Labor’s reckless spending and poor planning – and there is no indication of how it will be repaid.

Shadow Treasurer, John Elferink, said Estimates hearings identified a forecast 94% increase in public sector debt during the forward estimates period.

Debt will increase from $1.6billion in 2008-09 to $3.1billion in 2013-14, and this doesn’t include the Territory’s superannuation liabilities.

"The Treasurer was forced to admit the Territory’s total net debt will be about $20,000 per person, including superannuation liabilities," Mr Elferink said.

"The interest payments from this debt will reach $226 million per year and will ultimately hold-back the development of much needed infrastructure like schools, roads and hospitals.

"The Territory’s debt blow-out has been on the horizon for years now. The Government has failed to properly manage debt and plan for such projects in a timely manner and now taxpayers will be lumped with the bill."

Estimates also provided an insight into how the Government divests into the Budget’s cash reserves - held within the Treasurer’s Advance - to pay for its mistakes.

"The Treasurer’s Advance is a contingency fund designed to be spent in the event of an emergency, such as a natural disaster," Mr Elferink said.

"However it has become a slush-fund for every Labor whimsy that takes the Treasurer’s fancy.

"For instance, the Government pushed through an unbudgeted $400,000 spend on alcohol interlock devices. So far only one has been fitted.

"As well, poor planning in SILIP also led to a raid on the Treasurer’s Advance to the tune of $20million.

"Usually totalling around $40million a year, last year $190million was taken from the Treasurer’s advance.

"Delia Lawrie explained this as being a consequence of the Global Financial Crisis. What she couldn’t explain was why in 2007-08, before the GFC hit, she plundered $170million from the Advance."

Further comment: John Elferink 0418 406 400