CONVEYOR BELT PROMISE ON HOLD
Adam Giles MLA
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On the same day Parliament debated the Territory’s trade prospects, it was telling the Labor Minister Gerry McCarthy refused to answer a simple question on the starting date for construction of a new conveyor belt at East Arm Wharf.

Shadow Infrastructure Minister, Adam Giles, said the Minister pontificated and blustered as he tried to avoid naming a date work on the conveyor belt will begin.

“His failure to answer said volumes about this Government’s commitment to developing East Arm Port,” Mr Giles said.

“In 2008 the Government allocated $35million to build the conveyor belt to improve bulk ship loading operations, environmental and traffic safety at East Arm.

“Two years later – and with the scandal surrounding copper sulphate spillage at the wharf fresh in the public’s minds – the Government is reneging on its promise.

“This makes a mockery of its ambition to make the Territory the trade gateway to Asia.

“I understand the new facility is designed to load manganese and ore, two products of high interest to Asian markets.

“The Minister’s refusal to answer the question shows a lack of respect for Territorians and highlights a profound lack of confidence and understanding of his portfolio.

“Once again, I call on the Minister to specify a date when work will begin on the new conveyor belt and if it’s not going to be built, to explain why.”

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