MINISTER MINDS HIS OWN BUSINESS
David Tollner MLA
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Business Minister Rob Knight’s appearance before the Estimates Committee highlighted his lack of understanding of this key economic portfolio and his focus on spin over substance.

Shadow Business Minister, David Tollner, said Mr Knight’s opening address to the committee spoke of an anticipated turn-around in the Territory’s spiralling capital expenditure during 2010-11.

“I asked him to outline what major projects were on the horizon in the next financial year that warranted such optimism.

“Instead of a detailed response, the Minister looked like a rabbit in a spotlight.

“When I pressed him for an answer, he banged on about Government capital spending and projected growth forecasts.

“His portfolio responsibility requires him to be across issues associated with the private sector and judging by today’s Estimates performance, he isn’t.”

Also today, the Government showed its innate hypocrisy in relation to fighting the Territory’s skills shortage.

“The Government has set a target of creating 10,000 apprenticeships and traineeships over four years.

“This year, the Government has taken on a meagre 56 apprentices. It hasn’t been much higher in previous years (see table attached).

“At the current rate, the Government will create about 2% of those, leaving the private sector to create the remaining 98%.”

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