The Treasurer’s deceit surrounding the Territory’s declining population has unravelled.

“Last week, Delia Lawrie used Parliament to claim that the downsize in the Territory’s population was caused by the rollback of 7RAR from Robertson Barracks,” says Shadow Treasurer John Elferink.

“Over the past five quarters, in excess of 100 more people a month have left the Territory than migrated here.

“Since October 2009, more than 2022 people have left the Territory than arrived here – almost 100 people a month.

“The Treasurer dismisses these alarming shifts, saying in Parliament that when 7RAR relocated from Robertson Barracks to Adelaide ‘it was a loss of in excess of 500 Territorians’.

“This version of events was immediately discredited by the Chamber of Commerce, who said:

‘... those personnel have already been replaced by the movement of other service personnel to Darwin. This is purely a locally grown retraction due to lack of activity’.

“Today in Question Time the Opposition gave the Treasurer an opportunity to back-up her claims about the population drain – but she failed dismally.

“She was unable to provide a break-down of the roll-out time of 7RAR personnel, and claimed the figures were included in the 2011-12 Budget, which they were not.

“Today’s performance by Delia Lawrie reinforces a view widely held in the business community that this Government has lost control of the economy and has no answers to the economic slowdown – except waiting for INPEX.”

Further comment: John Elferink 0418 406 400