Media Release

COMPETITION’S THE KEY

Terry Mills MLA

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“The weekend’s Qantas shutdown inconvenienced tens-of-thousands of passengers and delivered a significant hit to both the national and Territory economies,” says Opposition Leader Terry Mills.

“The shutdown came after months of industrial activity by a number of unions representing workers employed with the airline and serious damage had been done to the Qantas brand and forward bookings.

“The situation had become untenable for Qantas and the travelling public and while the individual disruption to passengers, their families and friends was damaging, hopefully bringing the issue to a head and forcing Fair Work Australia to intervene will have a positive outcome.

“While it’s easy for people like the Chief Minister to sink the boot into Qantas and its management, it’s worth remembering the airline has serviced the Territory since its inception and that it has been a mainstay in the Territory’s aviation sector while other services have come and gone.

“It’s also worth pointing out that airlines that don’t service routes in the Territory, nationally and internationally aren’t under attack.

“What the weekend’s shutdown reinforces is the importance of boosting the Territory’s profile as a tourism destination and encouraging competition to provide more services so we’re not as reliant on operators that, from time to time, face troubles through industrial action or natural disasters.”