A COMMITMENT TO FRONTLINE SERVICES

May 2nd, 2012

The Country Liberals used today’s Budget in Reply speech to make a guarantee to the Territory’s public servants that their jobs are safe.

Opposition Leader, Terry Mills, said Labor doesn’t respect the Northern Territory Public Service and uses public servants as a firewall to cover for ministers who don’t want to answer uncomfortable questions.

“When there’s a problem for Labor the Minister goes missing and a public servant will be trotted out in their place,” Mr Mills said.

“That responsibility should be – and will be – taken by a Country Liberals Minister if we’re in Government after August.

“In the interest of quality public service, I expect frank and fearless advice from all public servants and advice that is not filtered and ‘managed’ by Departmental officers.

“The Country Liberals will value our public servants and ensure there are systems in place that see advice from the bureaucracy passed onto senior departmental officials and the Minister.”

Mr Mills guaranteed that public service pay and conditions will be preserved under a Country Liberals Government and that the Country Liberals would act on Labor’s broken promise to cap public service numbers.

“I will personally ensure that pay or conditions will not be eroded under a Country Liberals Government and there will be no compulsory redundancies for any public servants earning $110,000 or less.

“This group is not only the engine room of our public sector, it is also the backbone of our community.

“Frontline positions such as police, education and health service providers are safe.

“Senior executive positions will be assessed on merit, and there will be an expectation of improved productivity and service delivery.

“I know most executives are competent and hard-working and provide excellent public service and the ones doing their jobs competently and efficiently will be valued and rewarded.”

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 833 594