MEDIA RELEASE

HENDERSON CANS BUSINESS

January 06th, 2012

The roll-out of Labor’s Container Deposit Scheme has been so poorly handled, so disastrously executed that the Chief Minister has resorted to threatening Territory small business operators.

“Paul Henderson’s threat to ‘slap’ businesses with please explain notices is a desperate play by a bully-boy Government that’s lost control of its own policy,” says Shadow Environment Minister, Peter Chandler.

“Over the past year Government has promised repeatedly that the Container Deposit Scheme wouldn’t increase prices for Territorians.

“Having misled on that front, now they’re standing over Territory businesses trying to work within the Government’s own arrangements.

“First he tried to skitch the ACCC onto retailers before being told it wasn’t the competition watchdog’s job to control pricing. Now he wants the public to dob in store owners forced to increase prices to meet the additional costs they face as a consequence of Paul Henderson’s bungled scheme.

“The paradox couldn’t be more appalling. Prices at the checkout have increased because of the CDS, but because he misled Territorians about the scheme’s impact, the Chief Minister’s now looking for somebody to blame.

“Polling shows that Territorians overwhelmingly support a container recycling scheme, but the events of the past few days must have tested the patience of even its most ardent supporters.

“To add insult to injury, residents in remote communities frozen out of the scheme have been told by the Chief Minister to bag up their cans and containers and bring them to Darwin.

“Only Paul Henderson’s Labor Government could turn a popular public policy into a crisis that has to be managed.”

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