18 July 2012

CLP Conn Job

“Comments today by CLP guest speaker Dr Neil Conn are factually inaccurate and confirm the CLP’s agenda to slash public service jobs,” Treasurer Delia Lawrie said today.

“In a move typical of a party without any vision for the future, the CLP have dug up one of their old guard for support, and are expecting the Territory business community to take advice from a man who has been retired and living interstate for more than a decade.

“Dr Conn and the CLP are being deliberately misleading in claiming money is being borrowed to pay public service wages; the deficit is due to spending on infrastructure, not operational costs.

“In fact, we have made cumulative savings of more than $150m already through the staffing cap and efficiency dividends, without sacrificing frontline services Territorians deserve.

“Secondly, Dr Conn is rejecting the hard evidence of every Treasury in Australia in claiming that GST revenue from the Commonwealth has not contracted.

“Thirdly Dr Conn’s comments that government should ‘go quiet on refilling positions’ confirm the CLP’s agenda to slash the public service if they were elected.

“It’s no wonder the CLP have had to scrape the barrel to find support for their slash and burn agenda; our decision to go into deficit to build infrastructure and support jobs has the support of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry; even former CLP Minister Daryl Manzie.

“The Territory Labor government inherited a basket case economy from the CLP and delivered eight consecutive budget surpluses while paying off $582m in debt and increasing services across all areas.

“When the GFC hit we made the responsible decision to go into deficit to keep Territorians working and build key infrastructure before the return of private investment.

“Now our economy is surging, our debt is manageable and our workers and businesses supported by the public spend are set to reap the rewards of major project investment.”

**Media contact:** Patrick Hastwell 0427 017 803