TREASURER UNABLE TO ATTEND PUBLIC RALLY

December 15th, 2012

Treasurer Robyn Lambley is unable to attend a public rally in Darwin next weekend targeting increases to Territory utility charges and measures announced in the Mini Budget.

Mrs Lambley received an e-mailed invitation on Friday requesting she speak at the rally.

“I have a number of engagements in Alice Springs that weekend that I am unable to cancel at such short notice,” Mrs Lambley said.

“I would have appreciated the opportunity to address the rally and explain that the enormous legacy of debt left by the Labor Party – including interest repayments forecast to reach $1 million a day – had to be urgently addressed.

“The rally would have provided an opportunity to explain the detrimental impact debt and substantial interest repayments have on funding health, education, law and order, infrastructure and repairs and maintenance of Government assets.

“I would also have welcomed the chance to explain how the Opposition Leader, when she was Treasurer in 2011, indicated she was preparing for substantial increases in power and water charges – after this year’s election.

“I would have pointed to Delia Lawrie’s abject hypocrisy – on the one hand criticising the measures we’ve adopted, on the other planning to keep them in place.

“Myself and all Government ministers regret the impact the tariff increases will have on Territory families and households.

“While unaware of the availability of other members of Government the Chief Minister, who has also been invited to speak, will be overseas when the rally takes place.”

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