MEDIA RELEASE

Delia Lawrie
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

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LABOR’S CLEAR ALTERNATIVE – A FAIRER, MORE PROSPEROUS TERRITORY

Opposition Leader Delia Lawrie today outlined to Parliament a clear alternative in her formal Budget Reply to the CLP’s budget of missed opportunities and broken promises.

“Yesterday’s budget by the CLP deepens the pain for Territorians and breaks every key election promise they made last year. Under the CLP, Territorians are missing out on the benefit of a strong economy with job losses, skyrocketing cost of living and cuts to education and hospitals,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Labor’s alternative couldn’t be clearer. Labor left an economy the envy of the nation where Territorians were sharing in the growth. Inflation was nearly half what it is today under the CLP, jobs growth was strong and we were investing in the regions with record infrastructure programs supporting the private economy through difficult times and providing services to the bush.

“Labor’s Budget reply outlined we would continue to build on our legacy of a fairer more prosperous Territory. We would not sack 130 teachers, we would not slash education funding, we would not waste $90,000 per person on a alcohol treatment program that every expert says will not work. We wouldn’t scrap a second hospital for Palmerston and we wouldn’t reject a new children’s wing at RDH.

“We wouldn’t be cutting $300 million from public servants and cutting the wages of teachers, nurses and police by funding them below inflation.

“We wouldn’t be ripping an additional $84 million from the pockets of Territory families with power prices up $2,000 per family per year. We wouldn’t be aiming to increase taxes to the Australian average as proposed by the CLP destroying our competitive advantage.

“We wouldn’t aim to crash the domestic economy from amongst the best in the country to minus 15% in one year. We wouldn’t have promised to cut debt and then raised it by a record amount. We wouldn’t trample business confidence by refusing to rule out a land tax. We wouldn’t introduce a new tax on our biggest employer and not even speak to industry.
“We certainly wouldn’t have ripped money from our most vulnerable citizens with cuts to child protection services and screening for STD’s leaving many indigenous women and children at increased risk.

“Above all we wouldn’t have promised Territorians one thing and done the exact opposite. The contrast couldn’t be clearer,” Ms Lawrie said.

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* Full details of the Budget Reply attached.