MEDIA RELEASE

Michael Gunner
Shadow Minister for Government Accountability

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The response from the CLP’s Larisa Lee to her extraordinary fuel bill raises more questions than it answers and provides more grounds for an independent inquiry said Shadow Minister for Government Accountability Michael Gunner.

“The CLP’s Larisa Lee has now admitted that she put $17,415 of taxpayer’s money on her fuel bill. $14,402 was ridiculous. $17,415 is absurd,” said Mr Gunner.

“According to Larisa Lee, on average she spent $82 every single day and her car travelled 286 kilometers every single day, seven days a week without a single break for seven straight months.

“In a staggering move Larisa Lee decided to attack the Opposition for understating her fuel bill by $3,013. The Opposition was using figures provided by the Speaker and has asked the Speaker’s office for an explanation on the discrepancy – yet another reason why the Chief Minister must call for an independent inquiry.

“Adam Giles has ordered Larisa Lee into hiding yet again. She is refusing to answer any questions from the media; instead, preferring to hide behind prepared statements that simply don’t address the key questions raised.

“Larisa Lee’s statement raised more questions which only an independent inquiry can explain.”

Just some of the questions that remain include:

- Why did Larisa Lee claim accommodation, food, travel allowance and expenses for her husband being in Darwin on the exact same date that she now claims he was actually in Elliott 735 kilometres away? Will she reimburse the taxpayer’s money she claimed?

- Will Larisa Lee provide the missing fuel bill details from end of March through to end of June?

- Where, when and who was behind the extra $3,012 of taxpayer funded fuel beyond the details the speaker provided?

- In January Larisa Lee claimed that she was travelling in her electorate yet she filled up in Katherine 21 times, never more than two days apart, at a cost of $3,100 at an extraordinary average of over $100 per day.

- Why was Larisa Lee filling up with $324 worth of fuel and then refilling less than 500 kilometers later?
Why did Larisa Lee never fill up in her own electorate? Larisa Lee claims to have done numerous round trips of over 1000 kilometres on dirt roads without filling up. How?

Mr Gunner said he had been inundated with people, including public servants, pointing out that they would be sacked if they abused a fuel card like the CLP’s Larisa Lee.

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