MEDIA RELEASE

Delia Lawrie
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

13 August 2013

The Greatest threat to the Territory

Opposition Leader Delia Lawrie today said that the Liberal plan to change GST distribution threatens billions in funding to the Northern Territory.

“The Tony Abbott plan to change the GST distribution in favour of large states is the greatest threat the Northern Territory faces,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Tony Abbott and the Liberal premiers have a plan to move towards a per capita distribution which would result in the Territory losing $2.2 billion.”

Julie Bishop on ABC Perth Mornings – Monday 12 August 2013:

“In fact Tony Abbott has said that he believes the State Premiers in the major state and that is that Western Australia, Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria should get together and come up with a formula they believe is fair ensuring that others states don’t miss out but come out with a formula that is fair. I understand that is precisely what the Premier’s of Western Australia, New South Wales and Victoria are doing.”

Ms Lawrie said that about half of the entire Northern Territory budget comes from the GST.

“Redistributing our GST share to the large states will destroy our budget,” Ms Lawrie said.

“In recognition of our challenges delivering services across a vast landscape with sparse communities and high indigenous population, the Territory receives about five times more per person than the rest of the country through Horizontal Fiscal Equilisation. This would be torn to shreds under the Abbott/Premiers deal.

“Every year the Territory will lose $10,000 for every Territorian.

“Every budget would be hit – schools, hospitals, roads, and to increase government revenue the cost of living would rise sharply.

“Julie Bishop reiterated her position yesterday; that the deal is done. The Liberal Premiers and Tony Abbott have signed up. Natasha Griggs and Adam Giles stand by and do nothing while the Coalition sells out the Territory.”

Media contact: Gino Luglietti 0401 119 794