Is the Labor Opposition Shadow Business spokesman Michael Gunner a half glass full or a half glass empty guy?

Treasurer David Tollner said Mr Gunner should be celebrating the news that there were an extra 328 fulltime jobs in the Territory in September compared to August and an extra 1918 jobs compared to September 2012.

“Yesterday Mr Gunner and his Labor colleagues were out scaring Territorians with false claims of a 58% hike in power bills. And today Mr Gunner is down in the dumps, painting a false picture of doom and gloom in the Territory on the jobs front,” Mr Tollner said.

“We’ve got an economy leading most Australian states, workforce participation at its highest level since 2009 and in the past two months an extra 850 fulltime workers in the Territory, which doesn’t include fly-in, fly-out workers.

“Yet Mr Gunner makes a nonsensical claim that it is hard to get a job in the Territory. Sounds like a glass half empty guy to me. The truth is trend employment in the Territory has increased by 0.3 per cent in September 2013, and continues to be the highest growth rate in Australia.

“In other jurisdictions, monthly trend employment growth varied between a drop of 0.3 per cent in South Australia and a 0.2 per cent increase in Queensland.

“The CLP government under Chief Minister Adam Giles is framing an economy that creates wealth and jobs for families and the latest increase jobs are further proof of that.

“The national participation rate is 65.0 per cent. In the Territory it is 10.2 per cent higher on 75.2 per cent.

“The Territory’s trend unemployment rate remains unchanged at 5.5 per cent, the third lowest of the jurisdictions.

“On top of this small to medium businesses consider the Northern Territory Government the most supportive government in the nation.

“The latest Sensis Business Index shows support for the government rose by 10 per cent in the last quarter.
“The 10 per cent increase in support for the Territory Government was the largest increase of any state or territory government.

“Overall, Territory business confidence grew by six per cent to 26%, the second-highest in the nation and well above the national average of 17%, which actually declined five per cent over the quarter.

“The Territory recorded the highest regional business confidence in the nation at 47%.

“Territory businesses also performed better than all other states or territories in sales, employment, prices and profitability.

“If Mr Gunner wants to achieve his ambition of taking the top job from Labor Leader Delia Lawrie he needs to stop working from her playbook of always talking down the economy.

“Rather than being the Opposition that is always in opposition to everything Mr Gunner could be his own man and acknowledge just how good things are in the Territory right now.”

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