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CLP SHOULD COME CLEAN ON GAS DEAL COSTS

Shadow Minister for Essential Services, Gerry McCarthy, today called on the CLP to explain to Territorians how much a new deal to secure more gas than PowerWater needs is going to cost.

Mr McCarthy said it was surprising that there was no formal announcement by Government of a deal to purchase gas that would cost PowerWater millions of dollars when the Treasurer Dave Tollner says it is in financial crisis and uses that excuse to hike up power, water and sewerage costs – hurting Territory households and businesses.

“What is going on at PowerWater? Why are they buying 15 petajoules of gas for 10 years, and potentially 30 petajoules of gas for 20 years from the Magellan field when they already have gas excess to their domestic needs?” said Mr McCarthy.

“Is this gas to form part of the 175 PJ gas offer to keep the refinery open at Gove? If it is, why not just facilitate a direct sale between companies?

“How much is this purchase of gas costing? What is the price per petajoule?

“Will all of the details of this purchase be provided in confidence to the Northern Territory Parliament Sessional Committee on the Northern Territory’s Energy Future that meets in Darwin tomorrow?

“Was this gas purchase approved by the Chief Minister, Treasurer and Minister for Essential Services and go through Cabinet as would normally be the process?”

Mr McCarthy pointed out that the days of secret deals were hopefully relegated to the 1990s and it is time for the CLP Government to become transparent and accountable when dealing with taxpayer’s assets.

“I look forward to the Government providing answers to what is fuelling this deal and what it costs,” Mr McCarthy said.

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