DAVID TOLLNER - TREASURER

FREEZING POWER PRICES ECONOMIC STUPIDITY

20 November 2013

Calls by the Labor Opposition Leader Delia Lawrie to put a freeze on power prices is the same recklessness that has Territory families facing a $5.5billion debt.

“This is the same stupidity by Delia Lawrie that created the mess that Power and Water is in,” Mr Tollner said.

“Because Labor froze power prices for so long it put Power and Water in a financially unsustainable position. The Country Liberals Government was left with no other alternative but to increase power prices.

“It was either increase the cost of power or continue down the same irresponsible path as Labor by borrowing bucket loads of money to keep the business running.

“It’s this sort of economic vandalism that resulted in Moody’s putting the Territory on notice with a view to downgrade the Territory’s credit rating.

“Delia Lawrie and her Labor colleagues were sending the Territory broke, borrowing money to pay wages and wasting hundreds of millions of dollars through bad policy decisions which are now hurting Territory families.”

Mr Tollner said the Northern Territory Government reforms of Power and Water aim to reduce pressure on future power costs and prices by encouraging competition for Power and Water.

“We want to promote choice for consumers and encourage more players into the energy market. The goal is to provide electricity at the lowest possible tariff to consumers. Structural and regulatory reform is part of achieving that,” Mr Tollner said.

“In contrast Delia Lawrie and the Labor Party are preventing Territorians from paying less for their power by opposing the scrapping of their carbon tax.”

Media Contact: Gary Shipway 0447 236 760