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SURVEY SHOWS TERRITORIANS STRUGGLING WITH COST OF LIVING

Leader of the Opposition, Delia Lawrie, today released the results of a Power Price survey that shows Territorians are struggling with the cost of living in the lead up to Christmas.

Ms Lawrie said that an Opposition survey on the impact of power price hikes had received an overwhelming 935 responses with Territorians showing that they are buckling under the strain of the CLP’s price hikes and will find it difficult to cope with the extra five percent hit on 1 January.

“It is the week before Christmas and the CLP are hurting families with a $32 million tariff grab that is making it hard to cope with their massive electricity bills,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Survey respondents show that 78.4 per cent of the households have had to make cut backs at Christmas to cope with high power bills.

“A local family has just been hit with $1,758 power, water and sewerage bill to pay by a due date of 24 December and too many Territorians are buckling under this strain.”

The survey shows that 82.6 percent of people surveyed indicated that Power Prices have already hurt them financially.

“Cost of living is a growing concern for Territorian families,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Increasingly I’m hearing of people saying they have to work two jobs just to make ends meet.

“We’d hate to lose more families to other states just because higher electricity bills meant they could no longer afford to live in the NT – like some of the survey responses have indicated.

“The CLP Government has already increased power prices by a whopping $2000 every year.

“The New Year’s gift from the CLP is a further price hike of a 5 per cent on January 1 2014, adding another $300 to the average families’ power bill.

“What we have learnt from the past few sneaky Friday afternoon announcements by the CLP is that they are on a destructive path of selling off Territorians assets with their sites now firmly set on PowerWater.
“A majority of 88.2 percent of Territorians surveyed do not support the privatisation of PowerWater with 85.6 percent worried that it will lead to price hikes.

“Other States that have gone down this road of electricity utility privatisation have found that there are no benefits for the consumer and only leads to power prices going through the roof.

“Adam Giles' Christmas edition newsletter boldly stated that ‘Power and Water prices locked in’. The only thing they are locked into are increases that Territorians simply can’t afford.

“Maybe Adam Giles needs the ghost of Christmas Future to show him the full effects of his destructive behaviour.”

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