Second lowest unemployment rate in the country is a problem?

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Treasurer Dave Tollner said he was stunned that, on the day a potential major $200 million infrastructure investment was announced, Labor Opposition Leader Delia Lawrie chooses to talk down the Territory economy.

Mr Tollner said Labor’s attempt to attack the current government for having only the second lowest unemployment in the country, and at the same time oppose plans to construct a new $200 million power station near Darwin, were contradictory.

“If Labor wants the Government to further improve our unemployment rate, and move to the lowest in the country, the best thing she and her Labor team can do is get out of the way of development projects,” Mr Tollner said.

The trend unemployment rate in the Territory stands at 4.8 per cent in July 2014. This was the second lowest monthly trend unemployment rate in the nation behind the Australian Capital Territory. The national unemployment rate was 6.1 per cent.

“If Delia Lawrie wants the Territory to claim the mantle of having the lowest rate she should talk up the Territory’s economic prospects – not continually talk down them down,” Mr Tollner said.

“I invite the Opposition Leader to take a bipartisan approach to major projects and work with the Government to ensure project’s like GE’s power station come to fruition. That way she can play a productive role in putting downward pressure on electricity prices and reducing costs for business.

“Sadly I think this offer will fall on Labor’s deaf ears.”

Media Contact: Communication Adviser Jon Taylor 0417710687