MEDIA RELEASE

Nicole Manison
SHADOW MINISTER FOR ESSENTIAL SERVICES

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CLP BLACKOUT REPORT WHITEWASH

Shadow Minister for Essential Services, Nicole Manison, today said it is clear that the release of the report into the March 12 catastrophic blackout has been deliberately delayed to avoid scrutiny before the Blain by-election.

Ms Manison said Treasurer Dave Tollner’s attempt to use the report to justify his plans to split up and privatise Power Water lack any credibility.

“‘The absolute incompetence of this CLP Government has led to reduced network reliability and their cruel power price hikes are sending Territory families and businesses to the wall,” Ms Manison said.

“The former Labor Government invested a record $1.8 billion over five years to fix and upgrade the network after decades of CLP neglect.

“Since August 2012 we have seen the repairs and maintenance budget drop from $87 million in 12/13 to $80 million, and then to $78 million in 13/14.

“Dave Tollner needs to take responsibility for the catastrophic blackout that took place on his watch and admit the CLP Government’s reductions in the repairs and maintenance budget for Power Water are contributing to the dramatic reduction in power reliability Territorians are now suffering.

“Funds that are desperately needed to improve the reliability of the network are currently being wasted on jobs for Dave Tollner’s mates and the additional bureaucracy needed under plans to split Power Water.

“Given the legislation currently before parliament gives clearly give the Government the power to transfer and sell Power Water assets, Territorians are rightly concerned that the Power Water split is nothing more than privatisation by stealth.

“Dave Tollner needs to scrap his plans to split Power Water and start investing the funds needed to improve the reliability of this essential service.”

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