COST OF LIVING PAIN TO INCREASE

Leader of the Opposition, Delia Lawrie, said Territorians are set to suffer a further cost of living hit under the CLP Government, with the Utilities Commission allowing an increase of 32 per cent on network charges.

“The CLP Government is again adding to the high cost of living in the Territory," Ms Lawrie said.

“The Utilities Commission has allowed for PowerWater to increase their network charges by 32 per cent.

“The revenue required to cover this increase is around a billion dollars.

“If the Government doesn't cover the cost of this increase then Territorians will be faced with yet another power price hike from the CLP – an increase of about $1000 a year for large households."

Ms Lawrie said that Territorians are set to feel some of this increase when medium to large sized businesses pass on the increase to consumers.

“Shopping centres, hotels, and other large businesses will be forced to pass the network charge increase onto their customers," Ms Lawrie said.

“This is another hit to cost of living that Territorians simply cannot afford." Ms Lawrie said that this increase was due to a policy of the CLP Governments own making.

“The requirement for Power Water to operate at a commercial profit is a policy of Dave Tollner and the CLP Government," Ms Lawrie said.

“Again the CLP are putting profits above people."

Ms Lawrie said that the CLP Government’s trend of bad PowerWater policy is going to be scrutinised at tomorrow’s Public Accounts Committee (PAC) hearing into the split of PowerWater Corp.

“The CLP Government has introduced legislation to Parliament to split PowerWater Corp – the first step in their ultimate plan to privatise the public asset," Ms Lawrie said.

“The legislation includes clauses that go further than the split and allow Dave Tollner to sell off PowerWater assets without facing the scrutiny of Parliament or Territorians.

“The PAC hearing will allow Labor to ask the CLP Government what they plan to do with PowerWater.
“The CLP Government needs to come clean with Territorians about their privatisation plans.”

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