Leader of the Opposition, Delia Lawrie, said that Labor will strongly oppose the CLP Government’s legislation to split PowerWater in Parliament this week.

“The CLP Government has their sights set on splitting and ultimately privatising PowerWater,” Ms Lawrie said.

“The CLP Government have their priorities wrong and are preoccupied with profits and privatisation rather than ensuring PowerWater is run as an affordable essential service with Territorians struggling to pay their mounting power bills.

“It was clear from the hearings of the Public Accounts Committee hearing last week that the Government has not undertaken a cost benefit analysis on the impact of splitting up PowerWater.

“The legislation the CLP Government will attempt to pass during Parliament sittings this week will see the stakeholding Minister, Dave Tollner, hold the power to sell off the Territory’s utility assets with the flick of a pen.

“The split and ultimate privatisation of PowerWater by the CLP Government is motivated by profit not on what is best for Territorians.

“The restructuring of utilities in other jurisdictions in Australia has led to privatisation and consequential increases in bills and reduction of reliability in service.”

Ms Lawrie said that the new political paradigm in the Territory Parliament may provide an added obstacle to the CLP Government’s plans.

“The Territory Parliament now hosts three Palmer United Party Members who will be looking to settle old scores with Adam Giles,” Ms Lawrie said.

“The CLP Government need to listen to Territorians and stop putting profits ahead of Territorians and abandon their foolish privatisation plans.”

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