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CLP FAILING TERRITORIANS ON FUEL EXCISE RISE

Deputy Opposition Leader, Gerry McCarthy, has called on the CLP Government to join with Labor and condemn the Federal Liberal plan to increase the fuel excise in next week’s Budget.

Mr McCarthy said any increase in the fuel excise would hit Territorians particularly hard and would be a roadblock to developing Northern Australia.

“Territorians are already paying more than anyone else for their fuel with prices in some centres already at more than $2 a litre,” he said.

“This plan by the Abbott Government to increase fuel prices will hit Territory families and the Territory economy hard.

“As well as paying extra at the bowser, the price of goods and services will increase as so many of our essentials are transported into the Territory.

“Any increase in the fuel excise will have a negative impact on our tourism industry, with grey nomads and the self-drive market right in the firing line with Tony Abbott’s latest grab for cash.

“There is also the spectre of the Federal Government investigating changes to the diesel fuel rebate paid to heavy vehicle users and primary producers.

“Reducing the rebate would compound the disaster in the Territory and I am amazed the CLP Government has not been speaking out loud and clear against this.

“Territorians already face increasing cost of living pressures with the Giles CLP Government increasing power prices and other charges.

“We are already hurting and can’t take even more Liberal pain.

“Any increase in the excise could be fuel on the pyre of our ambitions for the development of Northern Australia and I call on the CLP Government to join with Labor in condemning this latest tax increase by the Abbott Government.”

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