15 May 2014

Treasurer Dave Tollner said the Labor Opposition Leader demonstrated today that she was still wedded to debt.

Mr Tollner said Labor’s opposition to the belt tightening undertaken in yesterday’s Territory Budget shows debt and unsustainable spending are still the financial mantra of Labor.

“Labor still sees no problem with running up a projected $5.5 billion debt and an interest bill of $425 million,” Mr Tollner said.

The Giles Government has reduced that debt by $1.3 billion through eliminating waste and making Government more efficient. But that is heresy to the Opposition Leader, who says we should spend money we don’t have,” Mr Tollner said.

“Labor talks about the cost of living but ignores the $2145 the budget will save a family with three children through an increased child care subsidy, $200 Sports Vouchers and the Back to School payment.”

Labor also signalled its opposition to delivering more residential land to put downward pressure on house prices.

“The Opposition is against the creation of 6500 new dwellings that will ensure the home ownership is within reach of the current and next generation of Territory families.

The former Treasurer is also yet to buy into the development of Northern Australia.

“This Government is taking direct action to avoid the boom and bust cycles. We are delivering $1.14 billion for land release, school and health facilities, housing and roads. This infrastructure is vital to develop the north.

“We are backing the Ord stage three development to expand irrigation channels into the Northern Territory, releasing 14,500 hectares of new agricultural land.

“We have also formed a new Food Industry Development Group to focus on new markets to focus on developing new markets and products.
"This government is securing our children’s future while the Labor Party continues to advocate spending that would create levels of intergenerational debt that our children would have to repay."

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