Opposition Leader, Delia Lawrie, said today the CLP Government should use the reorganisation of Desert Knowledge Australia as another chance to hand out jobs for their mates.

“Revitalising DKA should be an opportunity to put Central Australia at the forefront of the push for development in northern Australia,” Ms Lawrie said.

“It shouldn’t be seen as another opportunity for Adam Giles to reward his political supporters with well paid jobs and board sinecures.

“If the Chief Minister is serious about his claims to have Central Australia benefit from a focus on north Australian development he should make sure DKA is run by appropriately qualified and experienced professionals.

“DKA could be leading the way in developing new economic generators for Central Australia and remote Australia.

“This means getting the best people to do the job, to refocus DKA and get runs on the board that will benefit the Centre economically and socially.

“Unfortunately, the CLP has form in treating these statutory authorities as a chance to get jobs for the boys.”

Ms Lawrie said a revitalised DKA was an opportunity for Adam Giles to show he was serious about developing Central Australia.

“So far the CLP Government’s much trumpeted commitment to northern development has all been smoke and mirrors.

“Money in the recent Budget is going to setting up an office and advertising campaigns – spin without substance.

“The Territory Opposition will be carefully watching what happens with DKA and if it really does have a new direction or just travels down the old CLP path of jobs for mates.”

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