Adam Giles
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

Delia still living beyond her means

11 June 2014

The Leader of the Opposition has again demonstrated her poor economic management skills by blowing her office budget by almost 45 per cent.

“Delia Lawrie drove the Territory budget deep into the red as Treasurer, now she’s doing it as Opposition Leader by overspending on her office budget to the tune of half a million dollars,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

“In Government, Delia Lawrie racked up a $5.5 Billion dollar debt on the Territory credit card and she’s now applying the same irresponsible approach in her own office.

"The Opposition Leader has also been busy trying to paper-over her leadership woes by spending up big on hospitality. Her budget for wining and dining is currently running at 48% over budget.

"Two separate Chiefs of Staff in her office have been advised of the overspend at meetings this year but the Opposition Leader has gone on spending regardless of the consequences.

“In fact, when asked to explain the overspend, her staff indicated that keeping within budget isn’t a priority for them. They subsequently requested a Treasurer’s advance to cover the shortfall – a request that was denied.

“It’s exactly this kind of attitude which got the Territory into so much trouble when Labor was in office and it’s time for Delia Lawrie to learn to live within her means.

“The Opposition Leader’s poor judgement was also on full display today when she spent hours running down the important work we’ve been doing in economic development and Asian engagement.

"The Department of Chief Minister has been leading this effort with an expanded budget and range of responsibilities including our critical new Northern Australia Development Office which the Opposition Leader was quick to rubbish today.

“I’m sure this negative attitude won’t go down well in the business community which has warmly embraced the Northern Development agenda and focus on Asian engagement."

650 people have already used the new Northern Australia Development Office.

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