Media Release

Adam Giles
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

**Labor’s lavish spending exposed**

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The Territory Opposition has been caught out by its own attempt to muck-rake over Government hospitality with figures showing Labor spent twice as much on entertainment when it was in charge.

“Protocol events are an important part of Parliamentary business and are an opportunity for the government to engage with the community.

“Labor has feigned outrage that the Government will spend an estimated $413,000 on these protocol functions this year.

“Embarrassingly for them, this is about a third less than the $660,000 Labor spent in its last full year in government and half the $828,000 Labor spent in 2010-11.

“It’s yet more evidence that Delia Lawrie can’t be trusted with Territorians’ money and has no idea how to manage a budget.

“She’s already demonstrated her lack of financial management skills by blowing her office budget by almost 45 per cent or half a million dollars this year. Specifically, Delia Lawrie’s hospitality budget is currently running at 48% over budget and she has made no attempt to bring her spending under control.

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

“To add insult to injury, Delia Lawrie has again raised her false claim of a $33 million budget overspend in my department.

“As a former Treasurer, you’d think she’d be able to see that a significant number of portfolios have been shifted to the Department of Chief Minister from other agencies and their budgets have moved with them.
“These transfers include $15.8 million to move Major Events, Asian Engagement, Trade and Investment and Regional Development. There’s $10 million worth of Strategic Infrastructure Grants transferred from the Department of Transport and $4.5 million in Australian Government funding for Ilpeye Ilpeye. Finally, there’s a little over a million dollars for the new Northern Australia Development Office all adding up to just over $33 million.

“There is no blow-out and no overspend. Either Delia Lawrie knows this and is being deliberately mischievous or she’s proven she has no idea how to read a budget.

"It’s about time Delia Lawrie got called out for this kind of baseless mud-slinging which amounts to an attack on the hard working public servants in my department."

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