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TAKE CLP PORT SALE BID TO SENATE INQUIRY

Leader of the Opposition, Delia Lawrie, today called on the CLP Government to halt their bid to sell the Darwin Port and instead disclose details to Senate Inquiry into the privatisation of state and territory assets and new infrastructure which will be held in Darwin on 16 February.

“The Senate Inquiry into the privatisation of state and territory assets and new infrastructure, being chaired by Senator Sam Dastyari, will be holding a hearing in Darwin on 16 February,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Territorians have already suffered the arrogance of the CLP Government selling TIO without a mandate, and quickly the CLP are rushing ahead with moves to sell our Port.

“Three companies, including Deutsche Bank, have been reported to be interested in buying the Darwin Port assets and again the Chief Minister has not consulted with Territorians.

“If Adam Giles and the CLP Government have a genuine business case for the sale of the Darwin Port then they should take that to the Senate Inquiry.

“Territorians will also have an opportunity to make submissions to the Senate Inquiry detailing how the sale of the Territory’s public assets will affect them and their businesses.”

Ms Lawrie said Labor is steadfastly opposed to the privatisation of these assets as it would be against the Territory’s interests with resultant job losses and a higher cost of living.

“We’d see job losses at the Port and a private company reaping profits through increased Port freight costs that would be passed on to consumers and businesses,” Ms Lawrie said.

“The Port is just starting to hit its straps, generating a record $17 million profit last year. Port revenue could be used to invest in our schools and hospitals.
“We know Adam Giles is also setting up our PowerWater assets for sale and he needs to explain to the Senate Inquiry how he would prevent tariff increases and replace revenue once he’s sold off our assets.

“How would a Government regulate a monopoly owner to ensure we all don’t suffer from profit gouging?”

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