MEDIA RELEASE

Natasha Fyles
SHADOW MINISTER FOR GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

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GILES RUSHES TO CLINCH SNEAKY PORT SALE

The Shadow Minister for Government Accountability, Natasha Fyles, said the CLP government is showing the same arrogance with the sale of Port of Darwin as they did with TIO.

“The CLP didn’t have a mandate to sell Territory assets yet they sold TIO and now they’re selling our Port,” Ms Fyles said.

“True to form the CLP are actively seeking buyers before giving Territorians and businesses a chance to have their say and The Port of Darwin Bill may not be debated in Parliament until after the buyer is locked in.

“It will be just like TIO – the deal is done and the paperwork tidied up after the fact.”

Ms Fyles said staff were told in a bulletin circulated on Friday that, while the bills are likely to be debated in February, ‘government intends to canvass potential investors and seek expressions of interest over the next few months’.

Ms Fyles said Territorians will be hit by cost of living increases if the port is privatised through a 99 year lease which is in effect a sneaky sale.

“Adam Giles and the CLP Government are spending millions on spin in a bid to justify a sale that will spike up the cost of living.

Territorians will foot the bill of freight increases because privatisation will bring commercial rates,” Ms Fyles said.

“Arrogant Adam Giles is selling out our future without a mandate. Our Port is crucial to economic growth and needs to stay publicly owned so Territorians reap the rewards of our oil and gas growth.

“Adam Giles spin said TIO wasn’t a ‘sale’, rather a ‘transfer of ownership’. This time, it's a 99 year lease which is still a sale and we all know it.

"The Port is hitting its straps with the oil & gas growth, turning out a $17m profit this year.

“When will Adam Giles learn that Territorians want to have their say before the Government does the deal with a private investor?”

Media contact: Cathryn Tilmouth 0427 500 667