MEDIA RELEASE

Ken Vowles
SHADOW MINISTER FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

4 March 2015

CLP has nothing to offer in Alice Springs, Palmerston and the bush

Today’s NT News poll results are a wake-up call to the CLP government, Territory Labor’s regional economic development spokesperson Ken Vowles said.

“The CLP made big promises to Alice Springs, Palmerston, the rural areas and the bush when courting votes at the last election.

“The reality is they have delivered nothing for these communities and are so busy fighting each other, they’ve given up talking to real people.

“In contrast, Labor has a strong program to get our leader and shadow cabinet members out of Darwin to listen and learn from voters about their regions and what needs to happen to get jobs growth and services happening.

“We’ve already announced new policies across a range of platforms. If we are elected our first priority will be to review power and water prices that have almost doubled under the CLP and are driving up the cost of living.

“Reversing the teacher cuts and stopping privatisation of public assets are others.

“Building our regions means understanding the needs on the ground. We’ve announced that we will establish peak regional committees to identify social, economic and environment priorities.

Local government will be at the table and engaged in the outcomes. We will work with them to identify what jobs can return to remote communities and to get decision-making back to communities.

“We will work in partnership with Indigenous organisations and Land Councils to realise the vast potential of Indigenous Territorians and identify real jobs and businesses to support them.”

In the health area, Mr Vowles said the CLP government hadn’t even been able to meet its own timetables to access federal funding.

“The Palmerston hospital is way behind schedule and they’ve failed to access funding for 10 remote health clinics and other programs that Territory Labor got the federal government to commit to in 2011.”

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