Gary Higgins  
Minister for Arts and Museums

**Labor fails to support the Arts**

29 April 2015

The ALP has failed to support the significant $18.3m Chan Building redevelopment into a dedicated visual art gallery.

During his 30 minute (20 min + 10 min extension) Budget Reply this morning Labor’s Arts and Museums spokesman chose to ignore the project.

“The ALP likes to pretend to care but clearly they do not support this amazing project, in fact, not a single peep about Arts and Museums from their spokesperson – not even to acknowledge they are an important part of our community,” Arts and Museums Minister Gary Higgins said.

“This project will create a magnificent new art space. It will help revitalise the city centre, offer a wonderful attraction to tourists and locals and I predict it will become one of the Territory’s premium ‘go to’ places to see and experience.

“The ALP’s silence on this project makes me wonder – do they support it all and would they ditch it?

“They have also ignored expenditure for a nationally recognised Indigenous Culture Centre, $600,000 over three years to enhance museums in our regional centres, $3.05 million over three years to enhance our pioneering and military heritage sites and $6.7 million to support the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.

“The ALP simply doesn’t care about the Arts or Museums in the NT.”

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