Adam Giles  
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

**Labor disinterested in Territory’s economic future**

27 May 2015

Labor demonstrated its disinterest in the Northern Territory’s economic future by failing to ask any questions about tourism and crucial major projects during Budget Estimates Hearings today.

Chief Minister Adam Giles said it was an exciting time in the Northern Territory with so many projects on the horizon, but Labor just skipped over many of the major economic initiatives highlighted in the Budget.

“The CLP Government is working hard to deliver new infrastructure and projects right across the Territory that will create jobs and opportunities on a scale never seen before, but Labor just doesn’t seem to care,” he said.

“Labor also failed to ask any questions about the tourism industry, the Territory’s largest employer. It’s disappointing Labor appear more interested in petty politics than the job creating projects and industries that will drive the Territory’s economy for decades to come.”

Mr Giles said some of the initiatives Labor showed no interest in asking questions about included:

- The long term lease of Darwin Port, which is needed to see the facility develop into a major distribution hub for freight to and from the rapidly expanding Asian Market and take advantage of the potential for Darwin to be an alternative to clogged southern ports;

- Central Australia Development, which is vital to developing opportunities across this major expanse of the country. The Government is undertaking major infrastructure spending in Central Australia including $10 million over four years to improve the Tanami Highway and $25 million to complete sealing of the Mereernie Loop and create new tourism opportunities;

- Northern Australia Development and work the Developing the North initiative has successfully undertaken in consulting Territorians on their views on how the future economic, cultural and social benefits of a prosperous North can be unlocked;

- Work the Office of the Coordinator General for Major Projects, Infrastructure and investment is doing to attract a high-end hotel to the Territory and subsequent new opportunities such an asset would open up for local tourism operators;
• The INPEX Project and the Government’s strategy to manage pressures created on the influx of 8500 workers into Darwin. The Government has undertaken the most ambitious land release project ever to help address the housing pressures while this major project is being built; and

• The International Grammar School, which can capitalise on Darwin's proximity to the growing middle class in Asia who want to educate their children in Australia without the expense associated with sending their children to Sydney or Melbourne.

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