The Northern Territory Government has provided increased funding to Foodbank NT over the past three years and continues to work with the organisation to identify a viable funding model for the future, Chief Minister Adam Giles said today.

Mr Giles said the Country Liberals Government had provided more than $700,000 to Foodbank NT, including $160,000 for the current 2015/16 financial year, to support their operational activities.

“The Northern Territory Government has been extremely supportive of Foodbank over the past three years despite the fact the organisation has repeatedly submitted incomplete or delayed acquittals accounting for how they are using taxpayers’ money,” he said.

“In addition to increasing Foodbank’s funding, the Government recently engaged a consultant to conduct a business analysis for Foodbank and that report is being worked through to develop options to help Foodbank improve their business practices.

“The Northern Territory Government will continue to provide support and advice to Foodbank to identify a viable funding model for the future.”

Mr Giles said the Labor Opposition needed to explain what other Government programs or services they would cut to fund the policy-on-the-run pledge they made today.

“Labor’s policy on the run today smacks of political opportunism given the former Labor Government knocked back a similar funding request from Foodbank in 2010 while the Country Liberals increased their funding when we came to office,” he said.

“The reality is both the former Labor Government and the current Country Liberals Government have been attempting to help Foodbank NT improve their business practices for more than five years.

“For Foodbank to be sustainable like other successful not-for-profit organisations, they need to develop a business model with funding from a range of sources, not just government.
“While Labor makes policy on the run with no idea of where the money will come from, the Country Liberals Government will work hard to ensure taxpayers’ money is spent wisely and to assist Foodbank to identify a viable funding model for the future.”

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