GOVERNMENT TO FURTHER DESTROY DARWIN CBD WITH HEALTH HEADQUARTERS ANNOUNCEMENT

Labor Leader Michael Gunner says the CLP would further “gut” the Darwin CBD if it proceeded with a new building to accommodate a health headquarters.

“Right now there are 21% vacancy rates in office space in the Darwin CBD alone. To put another building into the market would see property vacancies lift to 30%,” Mr Gunner said.

“That will lead to more vacant buildings, less vibrancy and more dead spaces in the CBD. This would be even worse if this building was to be located outside of the Darwin CBD.

“We need to ensure commercial vibrancy in Casuarina, Winnellie and in Palmerston but we should not destroy the Darwin CBD to achieve it. I believe that when the Darwin CBD is vibrant and alive the whole of the city and Palmerston is supported by it.

“What the government needs to be doing right now is trying to fill existing vacant space. They do not need to be creating more vacant space.

“Instead of this announcement what the CLP needs to be doing is some creative policy thinking and some action to stop this closure of business in the CBD and fill existing vacancies.

“I have already announced that Labor will undertake a five point plan to revitalise the Darwin CBD. We will:

- Work with the Darwin City Council to implement its masterplan to grow the CBD.
- Build a new Northern Territory museum and other major new tourism attractions in the CBD to help the CBD revitalise.
- Properly plan building usage and growth with the Property Council and property owners across Darwin and Palmerston
- Support businesses to repurpose buildings for new use through capital grants.
- Revitalise the CBD’s underpinning infrastructure.

“In Palmerston we need to work with council to make the CBD more livable and encourage the CBD to bring more people into it. That means working to sort out the traffic issues and the planning problems evident in the CBD.”

Media Contact: Gino Luglietti 0401 119 794