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Infrastructure cuts take toll

The Territory’s civil construction industry is paying a heavy price for the Gunner Government’s decision to dump infrastructure projects.

Opposition Leader Gary Higgins says a month since the Government announced $140 million in infrastructure cuts, industry says it faces being decimated by the lack of spending and has put its support behind the previous Government’s policies.

In a letter to Infrastructure Minister Manison, the NT Civil Contractors Federation says the previous Government’s civil works spending was between $220 and $300 million a year.

During the past six months, four of which have been under Labor and a month in caretaker phase, only $21 million in civil construction contracts have been awarded.

“This will be devastating if it isn’t reversed immediately,” Mr Higgins said. “The Government has got to stop talking about what it wants to do and actually get projects happening on the ground.

“Axing projects that were in the pipeline was madness and meant continuity of work was lost. My concern is the impact these cuts will have on businesses and jobs for Territorians.

“Industry is crying out for work now and the Government’s inability to deliver work and jobs is inexcusable. It needs to act now.

“I have written to the Minister reminding her of the importance of the civil construction sector to the Territory economy and jobs.”

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