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Sensis figures show lack of confidence by business

Despite a small increase in business confidence, the election of the Gunner Government has failed to ignite much enthusiasm among Northern Territory businesses.

The December quarter Sensis Business Index shows confidence among Territory small and medium enterprises increased marginally, but remained the lowest in the country.

“Usually a change of Government brings with it a renewed sense of optimism across the economy, but Michael Gunner’s victory barely caused a ripple,” says Opposition Leader Gary Higgins.

“The first few months of the new Labor administration has seen the Chief Minister put sectional interests ahead of business at every turn.

“Scrapping the Home Improvement Scheme, the introduction of part-public holidays and blocking Dan Murphy from Darwin all send a very clear message that under Labor, the Territory is closed for business.

“The failure to consult properly with business as evidenced by their disappointing summit timetable has also eroded confidence.”

Key points from the survey include the Territory recording the lowest business confidence nationally – primarily driven by negativity in Darwin – and nine out of 10 Territory business operators believing the economy is either slowing or standing still.

The survey also shows a decline in capital expenditure which is troubling given the 37.5 per cent drop in private business investment flagged by Treasury last week.

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