Terry Mills
Leader of the Opposition

Territorians have a right to know waterfront answers

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The CLP stands firmly behind the appropriate development of the Darwin waterfront but the Martin Government refuses to give Territorians answers to fair and reasonable questions about its plans for that development, CLP Leader Terry Mills said today.

"Territorians are investing millions of dollars in the Darwin waterfront development and have a right to know the fine detail and Government's refusal to give them that detail begs the question: Why?," Mr Mills said.

"It is arrogant of the Chief Minister to refuse to give Territorians the answers to fair and reasonable questions.

"In trying to avoid giving answers to important questions the Chief Minister claims people are knocking the project if they dare to want to examine what Government intends to do at the waterfront.

"There is no need for secrecy.

"These are some of the questions Government refuse to answer:

Ø 25ha of prime capital city waterfront land is a significant component of the $1 billion Darwin City Waterfront development. What is the 25ha of land currently valued at?
Ø Apart from the $100 million for the convention centre what other contributions will taxpayers be making to the waterfront project?
Ø What is the framework of the contribution of Territorians to the waterfront project.
Ø The Government has variously described the waterfront project as a $600m project a $1.2 billion project and a $1 billion project. Given the significant amounts of money involved on what basis were these figures arrived at and subsequently changed.
Ø Is it correct that building heights on almost all the development blocks at the waterfront development will be able to exceed the level of the escarpment under direction from the Minister for Planning to the Development Consent Authority and that these directions can not be appealed?
Ø Why, when public consultation is still underway, has Government told the preferred consortia to submit development applications on the waterfront land,
which is still owned by the Territory taxpayer, and financial close has not been reached.

"The CLP and the majority of Darwin residents are firm in their support for the Darwin waterfront to be developed.

"This is a project that will change the face of Darwin forever and it is everyone's right to want to make sure that the Martin Government gets it right.

"It's refusal to answer questions is arrogant and I repeat, begs the question: Why?"

Ends