Terry Mills  
Leader of the Opposition  

Mills to start outlining strategies and plans to lift Territory out of economic malaise  
16 February 2004

CLP Leader Terry Mills will begin to outline on the first day of the Parliamentary year some of the strategies and plans that he would implement as the alternative Chief Minister to begin lifting the Northern Territory out of its current economic malaise.

Mr Mills said that:
- More than 3000 jobs have been lost from the Territory since May 2002.
- Fewer Territorians have full time jobs now than in August 2001.
- While GST revenues have increased from $1.2 billion in 2000-2001 to more than $1.6 billion- Territory business is suffering under the burden of the tax on jobs i.e. payroll tax.
- And the Martin Government seems unable to act to ease the situation.

“It is urgent that a new approach be found and new policies implemented to get the Territory moving again.

“I will bring to the first day of the parliamentary year a sample of some of my plans to help business and Territory families,” Mr Mills said.

“For example a CLP Government will reduce the rate of payroll tax and increase the threshold to better the regime in Queensland – now regarded as the lowest in Australia. The ultimate aim is to rid the Territory of this tax on jobs.

“There will be many more plans to follow aimed at lifting our under performing economy. Tomorrow is just the beginning.”

Ends