20th February 2005

New Secret Document Reveals Potential Cost Blowout

Territorians will have to pay an extra $66 million each year under the Martin government’s new Territory Parks and Conservation Masterplan, CLP Leader Denis Burke said today.

The Parks and Conservation Masterplan says that to continue to keep Territory parks at an acceptable standard, an extra $66 million each year is necessary excluding any acquisition costs.

“The Chief Minister’s parks plan is coming apart at the seams. Her desire to rush through legislation without the community knowing the consequences is just unacceptable. The secret ALP agenda in the Masterplan must be released to Territorians”, said Mr Burke.

“Territorians have been unable to extract any information about the parks legislation and now we see in a leaked copy of the Masterplan that more than $66 million will be required to cover the costs of the expanded Territory’s parks and reserve system.

“The Masterplan also contains other secret information that is of concern to Territorians. It reveals her secret management agenda and includes proposals such as:

• giving Land Councils the power to make by-laws in these Parks and enforce them and
• inviting Indigenous people to become ‘sea police’ and give them powers of enforcement and compliance with funding coming from existing NT and Commonwealth coastal surveillance and monitoring.

“The Territory community must know what Clare Martin’s secret agenda is and the Parks Masterplan must be released now.”