Dr Richard Lim
Deputy Leader of the Opposition
Chairman, Policy Development Committee
Shadow Treasurer,
Shadow Minister for Education, Employment & Training,
Racing, Gaming & Licensing, and Central Australia

Questions over Govt's Mid Year Budget report
- Where has the money gone?

3 December 2004

The Martin Government is grabbing close to $80 extra in tax from every Territorian and is trying to pull the wool over taxpayer's eyes with its Mid Year Budget report, CLP Shadow Treasurer Dr Richard Lim said today.

"Territorians are having their hip pocket plundered while the Government stashes away an election war chest," Dr Lim said.

"We know that at the start of the financial year the Government received an unexpected extra $40 million from the Federal Government that it hadn't factored into its 2004-2005 Budget," Dr Lim said.

"The Treasurer is now saying in his Mid-Year report that on top of that the Territory Government expects increased revenue this financial year of $60 million.

"Where is the money going? The Government says that it has a $60million bill for extra expenditure. Where does this sit within the Budget it delivered in May?

"How much faith can you have in the Budget handed down in May if it's blown out by $60 million in extra expenditure?

"Taxpayers are owed a detailed explanation as to what the $60 million is being spent on – just what are the additional capital costs and where is the extra $5 million going on the Waterfront redevelopment project, and why was $27 million in expenditure carried over from last financial year?"

Ends