8th January 2005

Ministerial Statement is Rank Hypocrisy

The Leader of the Opposition Denis Burke said today that Minister Henderson’s Ministerial Statement on the Trade Support Scheme was rank hypocrisy.

Mr Burke said, “Mr Henderson’s Statement today must go down as one of the better attempts to cover up his continuing lack of commitment to strengthen the Territory’s trade relations with our Asian neighbours.

“For three years, Minister Henderson and the whole Martin government have ignored warnings from the Opposition that many years of hard work from the CLP was going down the drain.

“Recently, we have seen perfect examples of their complete inability to expand trade opportunities through the collapse of the Hai Win Shipping service from Shanghai to Darwin and only three of sixteen freight trials being completed by Malaysian Airlines Cargo services.

“Today, the Minister has the gall to stand up and talk about the great things the Martin government is doing to support businesses through trade support. If he was really serious about supporting business, the Minister would have guaranteed a continuation of these services so that Territory businesses would have had a chance to build trading relationships in those areas.

“It is rank hypocrisy for the Minister to get up in Parliament and try to trump up his government’s policies when two major potential trading opportunities have just fallen over.

“This is just another great example of the Martin government’s method of performing: sell it up in the media and once that is over, let it fail through no support.”

ENDS