Denis Burke, MLA
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Is Labor going to Butt Heads with the Feds or Come to their Senses?

The Country Liberal Party Leader Denis Burke has demanded that the Labor Treasurer Syd Stirling tell the people of the Northern Territory if it still plans to defy the Federal Treasurer and not reduce taxes.

Mr Burke said that he was glad to see that most other States were coming to their senses and waking up to the fact that cutting taxes is the responsible path to choose. Instead of choosing to play silly, political games, other States are willing to work with the Federal Treasurer and use the river of GST funds in the way it was intended – to cut taxes.

“Syd was pretty happy to defy the Federal Treasurer when he had his Labor mates’ on-side but now the Territory needs to know whether he will continue in the same vein given the sensible path some other States have opted for,” Mr Burke said.

“With $600 million extra from the GST since it was introduced and an almost doubling in the amount of stamp duty it receives last year, the Labor Treasurer must return some of this money to families and businesses.

“However, I suspect that because this Labor government is like all Labor governments in that it’s all tax-and-spend, tax-and-spend, Territorians should not be holding their breath for any tax relief soon.

“This Labor government has received so much money from the GST it’s not funny but amazingly, they still manage to blow every Budget they have brought down.

“Territorians should be expecting more of the same in the next Labor Budget: an increased tax take, no tax relief, out-of-control spending, further deficits and just plain economic mismanagement.”

“If Syd was smart, he would try to work cooperatively with the Federal government.”