Terry Mills
Leader of the Opposition

CLP will use GST for what it was meant - to cut taxes

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It is hysterical nonsense to claim schools and hospitals will be closed and new taxes levied on Territorians if a CLP Government moves to make payroll tax the most competitive in the nation with the eventual aim its total abolition.

CLP Leader Terry Mills said the CLP will use GST funds for what they were meant - to replace many of the insidious taxes on jobs, business and industry and the earnings of Territorians.

“The Territory has huge revenue gains pouring into the Territory through GST The facts speak for themselves,” Mr. Mills said.

“The Martin Government's income from GST has increased by a third since 2000-2001.

“In 2000-01 the CLP got $1.2 billion from GST. Today it is $400million higher with the Martin Government getting $1.6billion this year.

“The Government's own conservative forward estimates say that the total current grants and subsidies, which includes the GST, from the federal Government will increase by $46 million next year, a further $116million in 2005-06 and another $109 million in 2006-07.

“The GST is not meant to be a windfall but rather a new tax system that will generate enough revenue for the States and Territories to replace taxes.

“It is the CLP’s plan to relieve Territory families and business of as much financial burden as possible in the area of Territory Government taxation.

“Treasurer Stirling wants to have his cake and eat it too. He wants all the extra revenue from the GST but doesn't want to get rid of any of the tax burdens it is meant to be replacing.

“The other irony is that Syd Stirling says his Government is able to reduce payroll tax itself yet when the CLP says it will do likewise schools and hospitals will have to close.”

Ends.