Fay Miller  
Shadow Minister for Tourism, Housing, and Youth

**Labor’s planned tourism tax will hit Territory hard**

8 September 2004

Federal Labor’s plans to increase departure tax to $50 – an increase of 30% - will hit the Northern Territory hard, CLP Shadow Tourism Minister Faye Miller said today.

"Territory tourism will lose millions of dollars if Mark Latham is elected Prime Minister. It's as simple as that," Mrs Miller said today.

"On the same day that the virtues of having a new international airline flying 2000 more backpackers into Darwin are being extolled, the Labor Party is announcing a plan that will destroy that.

"Labor’s new tourism tax would be a major blow. Our industry can not afford the Labor Party's plan to increase departure tax by 30%. We will have one of the highest departure taxes in the world.

"Territory tourism is still struggling to come out of its three-year slump and is just starting to see the light.

"Under this Labor tax we will find it harder to attract international visitors to Darwin.

"Where’s the Territory Chief Minister on this issue? Clare Martin is our Tourism Minister. How can she possibly defend the Labor Party's plan as a good thing for Territory tourism?

"It would be as ridiculous as saying empty offices in the Darwin CBD are a sign of growing confidence in the economy.”

Ends