Terry Mills
Leader of the Opposition

Call for Chief Minister to pull Party-political ad

1 July 2004

The Chief Minister has been called on to pull a party political advertisement now airing on television and radio that Territory taxpayers have forked out tens of thousands of dollars paying for.

CLP Leader Terry Mills said the advertisement on new Tenancy laws is a flagrant breach of the Chief Minister's own guidelines covering how taxpayer's money can be spent on advertising.

The advertisement makes specific reference to the Martin Government and new retail leasing laws that come into effect from today.

“The Chief Minister admitted during questioning of her Budget spending that when you're spending millions of dollars a year on taxpayer funded Government advertising it should be A-political and have no link to the political party in Government,” Mr Mills said.

“Making reference to “the Martin Government” is a direct link to the Labor Party and is using taxpayer's money for the benefit of the Labor Party. Even the Chief Minister's Labor State Premiers would not engage in this behaviour.

“The Chief Minister is using millions of dollars of taxpayer's money on Government propaganda masquerading as genuine information, despite an election promise by the Chief Minister not to do so.

“Abuses such as the Tenancy law advertisement should cease.”

*Transcript of advertisement attached

End

Channel Nine Darwin

NT Government Advertisement at 1812

Tuesday 29 June 2004
It's official, from July 1 the Martin Government's new retail leasing laws will give small business retailers a more balanced bargaining position with their landlords. If you're a small retailer find out how these new laws can work for you. Look. Learn and lease. By checking the website at www.business.nt.gov.au or calling the Tenancy Unit on 8999 1999 or 1800 019319 for more information.

Authorised by the Northern Territory Government.

VISION ONLY

The New Business Tenancies (Fair Dealings) Act.

Spoken by Jon Wicks.

Ends