Terry Mills  
Leader of the Opposition

CLP welcomes Federal pressure to phase out BAD Tax

26 March 2004

The Leader of the Opposition, Terry Mills, has welcomed the decision by Australia’s Treasurers to abolish Bank Account Debit (BAD) Tax in 2005, and said that it was high time the Labor State and Territory Governments removed a number of other taxes as well.

‘This is wonderful news for Territorians, that this tax has been removed, it is just a shame that it took the Martin Labor Government to be dragged kicking and screaming to this decision by the Federal Treasurer.

‘The Northern Territory Treasurer will try and claim some triumph over this decision, but he has no credibility, as it was the Federal Treasurer that forced his hand.

‘If the Labor Government really wants, it can bring forward the end of the tax to this year, instead of 2005 and I challenge the Chief Minister and the Treasurer to so.

‘A CLP Government will not be reluctant to address these negative and outdated taxes if elected. It has been a long held public position of the CLP that taxes such as BAD, Payroll and Stamp Duty be reviewed and reduced.

‘We will use the additional GST Funding that the Territory has received to stimulate the ailing Northern Territory economy. This is my promise.

‘State & Territory taxes such as Payroll Tax and Stamp Duty, should be reviewed as was expected when the GST was introduced.

‘I believe that the Territory should aim to have the lowest rate of Payroll Tax in the country. It is only with innovation like this, that we can help get the economy rolling again.

‘The Martin Government has now agreed with us on BAD tax, and I would welcome them matching our position on Payroll Tax as well.

Ends