9TH March 2005

No Job Losses, No Cuts to Public Service Budgets And I Promise a Better Deal for Territorians

There will be no job losses and no cuts to budgets across the Northern Territory Public Sector under our government, Country Liberal Party Leader Denis Burke said today.

Mr Burke said, “Our policy costings have been done and private and public sector Territorians will be pleased with the initiatives that we will bring to the table. Unlike Labor, our promises are real and they will be kept.

“The Labor Party has panicked and is now resorting to desperate scare-mongering as a smokescreen for inaction and indecision.

“My pledge is rock solid and I am happy to take on the Labor government in any forum to demonstrate the strength of my promises and will expose their frittering away of untold millions of dollars of windfall GST revenue without demonstrable improvements in key service delivery areas like health and education.

“If we are to believe the Labor party slogan of ’moving the Territory ahead’, then why don’t Territorians believe that health services are so much better?

- Why is there still a problem with a lack of hospital beds?
- Why are waiting times still too long?
- Why are doctors and nurses overworked?
- Why are there still huge problems at Alice Springs hospital?

“Similarly, with the increase in the Education budget, do parent feel that their kids are getting a world-class education system?

- Why are teachers complaining about large class sizes and over-administration?
- If education is moving ahead, then why are teachers going on strike?

“The Treasurer also talks about Police. I ask Territorians if they feel much safer walking around the streets of Darwin or Alice Springs, if they really believe that
there is less violence, break-ins and vandalism and if there are less itinerants on the streets, since the Labor government was elected.

“These are legitimate questions that we must ask on behalf of all Territorians. The Labor government likes Territorians to believe they are managing these issues but why are teachers going on strike and why do we continue to have problems with over-worked and under-resourced nursing staff?

“The Labor government must be held accountable to Territory tax-payers and the CLP will be asking Territorians to judge the Labor party on its record and false promises.”

ENDS