The Martin Labor Government's claim that it would be fined if it had not increased the cost of power to businesses by 40% has been exposed as a lie.

CLP Leader Terry Mills called on the Government to scrap its increase in power costs following confirmation by the National Competition Council of what the CLP had asserted - the Martin Government would not have been fined if it did not increase the cost of power.

“It was another bald faced lie by the Martin Government and today's comments by the Competition Council confirms it. At what point can you actually believe this Government is telling the truth?” Mr Mills said.

“The real reason for the increase in power is to subsidise Labor's unfunded election promises such as undergrounding power in Nightcliff.

“PowerWater made a $45 million profit last year and the Martin Government pocketed $20 million of this. This is exactly how much the Government says it would cost to subsidise the power costs.

“This money could and should have been used to subsidise any power increase.

“The National Competition Council has exposed the lie of the Martin Government. It would not have been fined if it had not increased the cost of power.

“Territorians are being ill-served by a Government that has made ham-fisted dishonesty and deception a trademark of its administration.”

Ends