3rd May 2005

2005 Labor Budget Fails to Deliver

The 2005 Budget brought down by the Labor government is an abject failure in providing much needed stimulus to the Territory economy and tax relief for businesses and families.

Country Liberal Party Leader Denis Burke said that despite stamp duty doubling in the last four years and Territory-sourced tax rising by $48 million in just the last year, the Labor government has failed to provide any real, meaningful tax relief and incentives for Territory businesses.

“This Budget shows that the Labor government have run out of ideas. This Budget is a concern for all Territorians who care about the future of the Territory and the wealth of the community,” Mr Burke said.

“The Budget shows that Territory debt is set to explode, increasing by $128 million over the next four years. This is despite a huge windfall in own tax revenue and increased GST receipts. Labor was elected on a core platform of reducing debt and to increase borrowings is the breaking of a promise in the biggest sense.

“The tax cuts that Labor are trying to sell are inconsequential and do not go anywhere far enough to help businesses and create economic growth. The Budget confirms that Labor have done nothing to grow employment with a 1.2% fall this financial year.

As well, the Budget includes;
- Underspending on the capital works budget to the tune of $131 million,
- Increasing the Education Budget to over $600 million despite having 1,288 fewer students,
- A figure showing employment fell 1.3% last year.

“Labor has offered no real tax relief to Territorians, it has run out of ideas, run out of money and increased its tax take from Territory families and businesses.

“This Labor government is borrowing more, taxing more but delivering less.”