CLP SHADOW TREASURER GIVES TERRITORY BUDGET TICK OF APPROVAL, WHILE MEMBER FOR GREATOREX FAILS TO REPLY

The Territory Budget received a warm reception from Shadow Treasurer Terry Mills today, while the CLP Member for Greatorex made the extraordinary step of not giving a formal reply to Parliament about the Budget.

“Today, the CLP Opposition were supposed to critique the Territory Budget and offer real alternatives,” said the Treasurer Syd Stirling.

“Instead we find the Shadow Treasurer giving Budget 2007 a ‘faint round of applause’ and describing the Martin Government’s budgetary performance as a ‘modest swan dive’.

“While Mr Mills praised the Budget and the excellent state of the Territory economy including its strong housing and resources sectors, the Member for Greatorex Richard Lim didn’t even bother to reply to the Budget on behalf of his electorate – the very people who elected him to Parliament.

“If the CLP Opposition member cannot even be bothered to speak on the Territory Budget – they can hardly be trusted to manage a Budget themselves.

“The CLP Opposition has a poor track record of fiscal management. When they left office in 2001, the CLP left behind a cash deficit of $130 million, money had dried up for capital works, and the then Under-Treasurer described the Budget as being “unsustainable.”,” said Mr Stirling.

“The Martin Government on the other hand has delivered record spends in the key areas of health, education, and police - and lays out an extensive plan for the Territory’s future.”

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