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Are Territorians paying for our red sand to be trucked to Sydney?

Territory taxpayers are paying for the world-recognised red sand of Central Australia to be trucked to Sydney for the filming of The Alice television series, according to an internet news site.

‘Instead of being filmed solely around Alice Springs, much of the shooting (for The Alice series) has been done near Sydney, with tonnes of red sand trucked in for a Central Australian feel’, the internet site crikey.com.au has claimed.

The NT Government has provided a $330,000 grant to ensure The Alice TV series is filmed in and around Alice Springs.

Opposition Spokesperson for Tourism Fay Miller said: “The $330,000 grant came with a promise of many jobs through the construction of sets, catering, car hire and production jobs for locals. It now seems the Chief Minister’s promise is going to fall well short of the mark.

“If this report is true then Chief Minister Clare Martin must give Territorians, and in particular Central Australians, an assurance that their money is being spent on what it was intended for and not for red sand to be trucked to Sydney.

“The Chief Minister must be prepared to confront the makers of The Alice TV series and get guarantees for Territorians that the maximum amount of filming as promised is occurring in and around Alice Springs.

“It was made quite clear in the announcement that businesses and the tourism industry would benefit from this money being spent. The Chief Minister must make sure this is actually happening.”