THE BROKEN RECORD OF SAME SONG SYD STIRLING

Syd Stirling 13/06/06: I have said several times that public service numbers will come down over time, but we are not about to jump into a slashing and burning - sacking people and forcing redundancies and the like. Numbers will come down. I have said that publicly and I will say it again.

Syd Stirling 11/04/07: That means we will be working to ensure that non-service delivery and executive positions are trimmed back. With around 3500 people per year retiring or leaving the public service this will be managed easily. There will be no forced redundancies.

“Syd Stirling sounds like a broken record, but has no record to stand on when talking about cutting the number of fat cats from the Territory’s public service,” says Terry Mills, Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

“Last year the Treasurer promised reductions but delivered an increase in the number of fat cats in the Territory public service.

“Out of the 28 extra public sector workers employed last year, a staggering 25 of them were executives earning well over $100,000 a year and usually enjoying the use of a car and a mobile phone.

“Those figures reflect a long term trend, with the number of executive level employees increasing by almost 33% during the Martin Government.

“Little wonder that the Martin Government has failed to deliver enough nurses for our hospitals and police to keep our streets safe.

“By employing so many extra fat cats the Martin Government has placed future budgets at risk.

“Hence the Treasurer is now promising to ‘trim’ the number of executive public servants in the coming years.

“Frankly, given his record, it’s questionable whether the Treasurer will be able to achieve even this modest ambition.

“Should he be fair dinkum, the first place to start is in ministerial offices overloaded with political advisors appointed to look after the interest of the Government, not the public.”

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 833 594