Opposition Leader, Jodeen Carney, says she has received copies of letters sent by TIO staff to the Chief Minister and Treasurer, pleading for the sale of the TIO not to proceed.

“I have letters from long-term Territorians working at TIO who are very concerned. They remember the Katherine floods and are not fooled by assurances that a condition of sale will be to provide the same cover as TIO”, Ms Carney said.

“Staff are worried that the goal posts will change and that after one period of insurance, a new owner can do what they like. The fact is: Territorians don’t want it sold,” Ms Carney said.

Ms Carney said that her phone was running hot about this issue. “Every time I put down the phone, there’s another call waiting; the letterbox and fax machine are working overtime”, she said.

The letters to the Chief Minister and Treasurer point out the significant community sponsorship that TIO undertakes, noting that last year ‘more than $400,000 was invested back into the community through TIO’s Sponsorship Program’.

The TIO provides local jobs, it invests in local communities, it offers insurance cover that no one else offers, and has local offices to help Territorians with their insurance and banking needs.

“These services and jobs will be put at risk as a result of taking the TIO out of public hands and selling it to a larger insurer based in the Eastern states.

“The mid year financial figures show this Government has run out of money through mismanagement and that’s why it wants to sell the TIO.

Ms Carney says there are a lot of people who are telling the government not to sell the TIO, however, she is worried that with its massive majority the government is simply not listening.

“This government is drunk on power and its contempt for Territorians is staggering,” Ms Carney said.

Contact: Kylie Silvey Phone: 0419 837 276