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LAST ELECTON’S PROMISES BECOMES NEXT ELECTION’S PORK BARREL

The NT Government will not keep most of its election promises until shortly before the next election according to the Treasurer’s Half Yearly report.

Page 17 of that report demonstrates that of the $60 million of elections promises $40 million will not be spent until immediately prior to the next election.

“This demonstrates that they are taking Territory voters for granted.” Opposition Leader Jodeen Carney said today.

“They don’t have the money to keep their promises now so they’ve decided to use the debt they are going to run up in the next couple of years to buy off Territorians.

Some examples of the Government’s deception include:

- Payroll tax reductions are small until 2008/9 when they suddenly increase to $9.2 million
- 24 beds for the Darwin Hospital postponed until the end of 2008/9
- 24 beds for the Alice Springs hospital postponed until the end of 2008/9

The government will spread their spending over the four years in the following fashion. $7.5 million 2005/6, $11.1 2006/7, $17/5 million on 2007/8 and $24.3 million in 2008/9.

“You can bet your bottom dollar that the last two years will be rolled into a single spend just prior to the election.” Ms Carney said.

“Politics doesn’t get more cynical that this and the arrogance that this government is now displaying is a demonstration of their unsuitability to govern.

“By the time the next election comes around the Territory will have its highest debt ever according to Government statistics rather than managing their spending by spreading the expenditure over several years they’re going to spend more as the Territory’s debt climbs.”

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