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**Labor Fails to Meet Estimates Objectives - Again**

The Budget Estimates process failed to meet the key objectives set by Labor when it introduced it in May 2002, according to CLP Leader, Jodeen Carney.

“Time-wasting; obstruction; refusal to answer questions; political speeches by Ministers, and the bewildering and partisan interference by the chair are evidence that Labor’s own process has failed”, Ms Carney said.

“In May 2002, Syd Stirling said in Parliament that Estimates would:

- ‘Benefit the Opposition and benefit Territorians’.
- ‘This Government is serious about accountability’.
- Estimates would provide ‘an unparalleled opportunity to gather information on the operations of Government’.
- Open the books of Government.

‘We asked many questions, but ran out of time. We did not complete all of the questions in any area.

“No doubt the Independents are not very happy either. We could see them getting frustrated, and I’m sure they could see our frustrations as well.”

Syd Stirling said in May 2002 that the Government was ‘not so arrogant’ to believe the system was perfect and it would be reviewed.
“More time needs to be allocated; it’s as simple as that. Another 3 days should be enough”, Ms. Carney said.

“Labor members proudly describe themselves as ‘true believers’.

“We don’t expect Labor to live by our standards and our principles, but we do expect them to at least live by their own. They were serious about being accountable 3 years ago, but things have changed, and it’s Territorians who suffer as they miss out on having the Budget properly scrutinised.”