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No Christmas cheers for Territory Public servants

Many Territory public servants face an uncertain future after the holiday break as the Government tries to repair its seriously wounded budget, according to Opposition Leader Jodeen Carney.

Ms Carney said the Chief Minister had admitted setting up a “gang of four” to look at ways of slashing Government expenditure.

“And unfortunately, Chief Minister Martin has indicated that Public Servants are likely to be in the firing line,” Ms Carney said.

Community and Public Sector Union NT secretary Rod Ellis was reported yesterday as saying members had complained that they might be “facing the axe”, and Public Service department heads had been instructed to review every aspect of their department with a view to slashing spending.

“The Martin Government was given a $600 million lottery bonus when the GST started but rather than using that money wisely for the benefit of Territorians, the Government went on the mother of all spending sprees,” Ms Carney said.

“This was completely irresponsible and now ordinary Territorians are going to suffer as GST revenue falls across Australia.

“The Opposition does not object to well-thought out expenditure and spending that gives our community value for money, but this Government seems to think that writing a cheque means good government.

“We are committed to a Waterfront contract that has not been made public and consequently a billion dollar project has every chance of serious Government mismanagement.”

Ms Carney said the Opposition supports the Waterfront project “but with fiscal transparency”.

“I am seriously concerned about the deal that has been struck for Territorians,” Ms Carney said, “but of course until we see the actual contracts we cannot be sure.”
Ms Carney said the Chief Minister was flying first class around the country wasting money on political grandstanding over the nuclear waste facility.

“If you take into account Government salaries and wages this Government has wasted more than $100,000 on a futile political protest,” Ms Carney said.

“But the Chief Minister has now admitted she will accept a nuclear waste facility in the Territory – with certain scientific assurances.

“Well hello! This is precisely what the CLP has been saying and working quietly behind the scenes with the Federal Government to achieve.

“Territorians are beginning to understand how deceitful and incompetent this Government really is.”