GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING TRICKS

Claims made by the Minister for Infrastructure, Delia Lawrie, in Parliament today, that the Martin Government is delivering a record Infrastructure Budget are false, say the Territory Opposition.

“To get that figure the Minister has rolled expenditure on minor new works, repairs and maintenance into the Infrastructure Budget,” Shadow Treasurer, Terry Mills said today.

“This type of accounting trick is typical of the Martin Government.

“This means that leaky toilet cisterns, painted ceilings and window washing are being claimed by Government as capital works expenditure.

“It is simply dishonest.

“The Government has a duty to honestly tell Territorians how much they’re spending on real construction, rather than beefing up the figures with non-infrastructure expenditure.

“The truth is that in both estimated cash expenditure and total capital works, the Martin Government has made a substantial cut this year.

“Last year the cash budget was $192 million, this year that cash commitment has been cut to $166.5 million.

“Last year the total for capital expenditure was $333.8 million, this year it has been cut to $303.2 million.

“What the Government is promoting, as its great contribution to construction, is their ‘infrastructure program’.

“The infrastructure program is defined by Government as ‘an amalgamation of capital works, capital grants, repairs and maintenance and infrastructure related expenses.’

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 833 594