PARLIAMENT PASSES WORKPLACE AGENDA MOTION

The Territory Parliament has today passed a motion calling on the Federal Government to guarantee that Territorians will not be worse off under Canberra’s industrial relations agenda.

Public Employment Minister Dr Chris Burns said the Territory Parliament supported the Government’s motion, which requests that the Assembly:

- Expresses its concern with the Federal Government’s industrial relations legislative agenda;
- Calls upon the Prime Minister to give a categorical assurance that no Territory worker will be worse off as a result of the Commonwealth’s planned industrial relations legislation;
- Calls upon the Federal Government to consult with the Northern Territory Government regarding the proposed legislation;
- Calls upon the Federal Government not to reduce the jurisdiction of the independent umpire, the Australian Industrial Relations Commission;
- Calls upon the NT Members of the House of Representatives and Senate to oppose and vote against legislation that reduces the working conditions of Territorians; and
- Through the Office of the Speaker, forwards the terms of this motion and associated debate to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition in the Federal Parliament.

The motion was not supported by the CLP Opposition.

“I’m very disappointed that the Leader of the Opposition’s immediate response was to label this important motion as ‘drivel’,” Dr Burns said. “She also labelled debate on these important issues as a waste of time.

“It is not a waste of time to fight for a fair go for Territorians. It is not a waste of time to fight for the rights of Territorians to annual leave, public holidays, penalty rates and overtime. Nor is it a waste of time to ensure Territorians are protected from unfair dismissal.

“Today we are sending a clear message to Canberra that Territory workers deserve a fair go.”

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