Syd Stirling Won’t Rule Out New Taxes

“The Treasurer Syd Stirling refused to rule out imposing or increasing taxes to deal with the burgeoning budget problem in the NT”, Terry Mills the Shadow Treasurer said today.

While being interviewed on 104.1 FM the Treasurer was asked about budgetary measures being considered in light of the ongoing deficit problem in the NT. The Treasurer was asked “…can you guarantee people listening that we won’t have increases in Territory tax and charges and we won’t have sackings of public servants…?”

In reply the Treasurer said,

“Look there’s no sackings of public servants we made that commitment a long time ago and we don’t see any need to get into that, there has been growth across the public sector as we know and I mean that's something to be watched into the future but no sackings. In relation to the budget overall Daryl, too early I mean I’ve got a lot of work to do with Treasury, with all of the agencies and look I’ll have plenty to say about the budget in the forthcoming weeks but not today.”

“The deliberate failure to rule out taxation measures to deal with growing debt is very telling.” Terry said today.

“The question that many people are asking me is why is the government continuing to return deficits in spite of enormous increases in taxation revenue from the GST as well as local sources?

“The projected $80 million dollar overspend by departments this year will put great pressure on the government to raise taxes and the Treasurer’s evasive response is very concerning indeed.

“Land tax has been a top of mind issue for this Treasurer for the past couple of years and the Treasurer often mentions it. I am concerned that the temptation will be too great for him.

Now that the sale of TIO to help retire debt has been denied him the Treasurer is obviously considering new or increased taxes.

“Three years ago Syd promised balanced budgets but in spite of record income he has failed to deliver. He is now promising balanced budgets in three years time. If rumours are true this is well after the retirement of the Member for Nhulunbuy.”

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