20th April 2006

Martin Government Must Match CLP’s Post Flood Business Assistance Grants

After the 1998 floods in the town of Katherine the CLP Government issued a $10,000 Business Assistance Grant to each business in Katherine that had been adversely affected by the flood of that year. That assistance package was also extended to primary producers.

The current Government has given no indication that they will match that package and if the 1.3% surcharge that they are charging on Federal Government loans is anything to go by they won’t be generous enough to match that package.

“Such a package would not be a huge imposition.” Member for Katherine Fay Miller said today.

“The former CLP Government made the offer to help businesses get back on their feet quickly in 1998 and as there are fewer businesses affected by this flood it is no where near the imposition on the budget that it was in 1998.

“There are still businesses that have been damaged in the recent floods and they deserve a hand up as a result of the flood. Just because there are less of them it doesn’t mean that the impact is lower in any particular instance. I have spoken to business owners who have been affected by this flood and I know that such a grant would be welcome and in some instances may make the difference between surviving or not surviving.

“It isn’t too much to ask that this Government match the CLP’s proactive role and demonstrate their claimed credentials as being business friendly.”