MEDIA RELEASE

RAILWAYS - FINANCE
DON'T LET HOWARD OFF THE HOOK

Territory Labor Leader Clare Martin and South Australian Labor Leader Mike Rann today joined forces in calling for Denis Burke and John Olsen not to let John Howard off the hook on funding for the Adelaide to Darwin railway.

"This project has had total bi-partisan support from the start and we must continue our united front in lobbying the Federal government for further funding.

The Territory and South Australia have each committed $100 million to the project. John Howard has so far committed a further $100 million, most of which will be recouped in tax.

Federal Labor Leader Kim Beazley has committed up to $300 million for the project. John Howard should at least match Kim Beazley's commitment.

This project is crucial to the Territory and South Australia. It is a project of considerable national significance.

At a time when we are celebrating the engineering achievements of the Snowy Mountains Scheme we should be looking forward to other nation building projects particularly in the lead up to the Centenary of Federation.

Recent events like the increased defence build up in the Territory for East Timor have further highlighted the need for the railway.

The Territory Construction is currently experiencing a downturn and is on hold for a major capital works project like the railway.

How many more meetings does John Howard need before he realises the worth of this project and the need for his support?," Clare Martin said.

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