Maggie Hickey
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Shadow Minister for Chief Minister; Police, Fire & Emergency Services; Constitutional Development; Ethnic Affairs; Status of Women; Transport and Works

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COALITION DRAGGING THE CHAIN ON INFRASTRUCTURE BONDS FOR NORTH-SOUTH RAIL LINK

Territory Labor Leader, Maggie Hickey, has told Parliament that the Federal Coalition should provide approved project status for the north south rail link.

"The Federal Coalition should immediately provide taxation incentives for the completion of the north south rail link by approving the project for inclusion in the Infrastructure bonds program."

"I wrote to the Prime Minister in September when the Territory Minister for the Railway first advised the Parliament that his Canberra colleagues had failed to approve the project for infrastructure taxation incentives."

"I was very disappointed with the response I received from the Prime Minister."

"Basically, that response was that the Northern Territory should resubmit the proposal for consideration in June next year and stand in queue with some $26.5 billion of hopeful applicants."

"I have again written to the Prime Minister calling for priority to be provided to the north-south rail link."

Mrs Hickey told Parliament that Darwin would already be well established as a regional transport hub if the Commonwealth and the Country Liberal Party administration had agreed to the 1983 proposal to fund the north South rail link on a 60 / 40 funding basis.

"By this stage, the north-south, trans-national rail link would have been operating for ten years and it would be carrying several million tonnes of freight per year, based on projections supplied by the Department of Transport and Works."

"This is a project of national significance and should be eligible for taxation incentives under the infrastructure bonds scheme."

26 November 1996    Contact: Maggie Hickey 89 817 666

Your Team, Working for the Territory