Pipeline pass cops criticism

TREASURER Dave Tollner said the former Labor Government missed an opportunity to secure the Territory’s energy future by rejecting the purchase of the Amadeus Pipeline.

“The pipeline is a vital link between Central Australian gas fields and Power and Water Corporation’s power stations,” Mr Tollner said.

Chief Minister Adam Giles said the awards, which are categorised in business, volunteering, sports and health sectors, was an opportunity to highlight the hard work completed by a number of individuals within the community.

“The Barkly Golden Heart Awards are a chance to recognise the huge contribution made by a whole range of leaders in the Barkly and I am proud to be supporting this great community event,” he said.

“Each time we go to the tip, we take about 1.8 tonne in weight, being charged per tonne, and with the cost of the company that runs our bin in Alice Springs, it’s about $350, and that happens about four or five times per month.

“So we are budgeting for around $12,000 of tip fees this year, but we are going to go above that — it just depends on the frequency because we pay by how much we take out there and use.

“If I pay $5,000 in tip fees, that means I need to sell 15,000 items priced at $3 to cover my tip costs alone.

“It starts to add up that way, and it’s not only the cost of rubbish going to the tip.

“I can understand the council charging us the tip fees, because it is the same for all businesses, but it does add up and we end up throwing away a lot of stuff. I mean, we don’t want to sell a soiled mattress because that’s just not nice.

“And it’s not only a cost of the tip — it’s also the cost for the company that takes the bin to the tip and the time for our guys to sort, break things down and put them in the right areas. It’s really quite an expensive exercise.”

Captain Johnson said that although there was an increase in the amount of unsellable goods, the organisation was continuing to encourage people to donate safe and usable items.

“I think the fact that we are getting more rubbish comes down to the fact that we are also getting more donations,” he said.

“About 95 per cent of the donations are fantastic and we would rather use it and offer it to people in the community than have it taken to the tip or thrown away.

“We really do appreciate what the community gives us, because without them we wouldn’t exist, and the programs we have now wouldn’t be running if the shop wasn’t doing what it’s doing, so it’s really critical to the function of the Salvation Army in Alice Springs.

“But we really don’t like seeing is people dropping their crockery inside our bins because it smashes and ruins clothes, and we are still taking items such as electrical goods but we want them to come in working order.”

The Salvation Army Thrift Shop is also seeking volunteers to assist with the turnover process. For more information, phone 8951 0200.