Denis Burke  
Leader of the Opposition  

CLP Wants the Waterfront Development – But not as a cynical pre-election project  

10 February 2005

After two days of questioning in Parliamentary Question Time, it is becoming increasingly clear that the Martin government wants to rush through the Waterfront Development Project as a huge pre-election announcement with no thought to future consequences, according to Opposition Leader Denis Burke.

“The Waterfront Development is a project that the CLP initially began in 1999 and supports to the hilt. I believe that it is a project that is needed and wanted by Territorians. However, the rush job that the Martin government is committed to following will have negative consequences if all issues are not addressed properly.

“Over the last two days of sittings, the CLP have raised but just two community concerns, those being the environmental aspects and possible financial consequences of Henry Walker Eltin being placed in receivership.

“However, the Chief Minister will not consider these community concerns, amongst others, and will push ahead with the project hell or high-water.

“I now believe that the reason for the rush is that the Chief Minister wants this deal done, no matter what, in time for a nice, big media announcement to coincide with an election campaign.

“Clare Martin is prepared to rush through a $1.2 billion project for political expediency, with no thought for the future bar her own chances of re-election.

“This is cynical political opportunism at its worst and jeopardises a great project that the CLP supports in principle.”

Ends