Elferink Shows Embarrassing Lack of Understanding

The CLP Opposition has yet again shown an amazing lack of economic understanding.

Treasurer Delia Lawrie today said she was appalled the Shadow Treasurer John Elferink peddled misleading interpretation of gaming figures.

"John Elferink is wrong when he says Territorians gambled $6.2 billion last financial year," Ms Lawrie said.

"His embarrassing interpretation of the figures shows he is either misleading Territorians or doesn't understand how the Territory economy works – I suspect it's both.

"John Elferink puts himself up as the alternative Treasurer – yet he can't comprehend the basics.

"If he didn't understand the figures, he should have sought a briefing. He could have saved himself a lot of embarrassment."

Ms Lawrie said the figures supplied to Mr Elferink clearly include a large portion of interstate and overseas gamblers who are customers of Territory corporate bookmakers and sports betting agencies.

"The Territory's total turnover of $6.2 billion is not solely due to Territorians," Ms Lawrie said.

"Research conducted in 2005 on the prevalence of gambling in the Territory found more than 80 per cent of sports betting and race wagering comes from overseas or interstate.

"About 30 per cent of gaming revenue comes from non-residents and that virtually all online gaming is by people outside the Territory.

"John Elferink should apologise to Territorians for his misleading and embarrassing statements."

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