HENDERSON = CLIMATE CHANGE DENIER

The Chief Minister should explain to Territory householders the impact on power prices of the Rudd Government’s Emissions Trading Scheme.

Opposition Leader Terry Mills said the Chief Minister’s compliance and silence in the face of increasing power prices shows again he is happy to roll over under pressure from his Labor masters in Canberra.

“In typical Paul Henderson fashion, he’s admitted it will increase power charges – but he doesn’t know by how much,” Mr Mills said.

“He must release any Government modelling on the proposed impact of the ETS on Territory power prices and if modelling hasn’t been carried out, he should explain why not.

“His Government’s already jacked up the price of power by 18% this year and Territorians deserve to know where the ETS will take power prices into the future.”

In New South Wales, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal forecast a 60% increase in some power bills.

"In the last financial year, the Labor Government spent around $60million on diesel to power the Channel Island power station,” he said.

“If Paul Henderson thinks that’s not having an impact on climate change, then he’s in denial.” Mr Mills said the Henderson Government has also been mute when it comes to questioning the Commonwealth on the effect of an ETS on local LNG industries.

“The Henderson Government hasn’t gone into bat for Territory industries against the Commonwealth,” Mr Mills said.

"It’s imperative the Territory’s future as an LNG hub isn’t diminished by a tax that unfairly hits this low carbon emission, clean energy product.”

Mr Mills said he acknowledges the effects of emissions on climate change but any carbon reduction tax scheme should not impact on the Territory’s positive moves towards sustainable development.

“The Henderson Government has been woefully silent when it comes to fighting for a fair go for the Territory’s LNG industries,” Mr Mills said.

“Instead of remaining mute, the Henderson Government should be arguing that any ETS recognises that a global response is required to keep Australia and the Territory competitive with other potential LNG hubs in the region.

“While Kevin Rudd says his ETS scheme is still Government policy, Paul Henderson should lobby the Prime Minister to reduce the cost of the tax on this crucial component of the Territory economy now – and into the future.”

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