John Elferink
Shadow Treasurer
Media Release

3rd September 2009

Blowing the Budget by $154 million

A briefing by Territory Treasury officials has revealed that the Henderson Government spent $154 million dollars more than it budgeted for in the last financial year.

"Once again the Henderson Labor Government has proved itself to be financially irresponsible," says John Elferink, Shadow Treasurer.

"Each year we give the Government $40 million dollars to cover for unforeseen expenditure.

"Last financial year the Henderson Government spent that $40 million plus another $154 million.

"This woeful fiscal performance is a repeat of the previous financial year when they also spent $150 million more than they had budgeted for.

"In the past surging GST revenues have covered up the Henderson Government’s repeated failure to stick within its budgets.

"This year the Territory Government is already facing a deficit of $200 million and any failure to stick within its budget will plunge the Territory deeper into debt.

"With each man, woman and child in the Territory liable for more than $26,000 of Territory Government debt, we can no longer afford a government that has no fiscal discipline."

Further comment: John Elferink 0418 406 400