COUNTRY LIBERALS
MEDIA RELEASE
BACKFLIP BETRAYS PUBLIC SERVANTS
John Elferink MLA
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Shadow Minister for Public Employment, John Elferink, said the announcement of a freeze on public sector numbers is a significant back-flip on the Henderson Government’s previous position that the growth in public servants was linked to more police, teachers and nurses.

“Based on its previous assertion that the substantial increase in public service numbers came on the back of an increase in front-line essential services, it then follows that the Treasurer, Delia Lawrie, is announcing a freeze on the numbers of police, teachers and nurses,” Mr Elferink said.

“The announcement comes at a time when violent crime is at record levels, education outcomes are the worst in the country and the health system is in disarray.

“The Government has been misleading Territorians for years about the reasons public sector numbers have increased by nearly 4000 under Labor.

“The fact is the Government’s been expanding the public sector at record rates because it has lost control of the bureaucracy and has been incapable of controlling spending.

“During the boom years of record GST receipts, the Government was unable to keep public sector numbers at manageable levels and as a result, now times are tough, it is forced to announce a freeze. “More prudent spending over the past few years could have avoided the financial crisis the Government is now facing.”

He said Labor’s on-again, off-again approach to public sector policy is adding to uncertainty and low morale within the NTPS.

“Poor leadership from the Government and the high turnover of ministers is also impacting on service delivery,” he said.

“Syd Stirling tried to cap the public service when he was Treasurer, and failed. I doubt this flaky Government is capable of doing any better.”

Mr Elferink called on the Government to immediately release the size of the budget deficit.

“Territory businesses and householders should be told immediately the extent of the deficit the Government has created,” he said.

“To do otherwise is irresponsible and adds to uncertainty.”

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