LABOR TURNS ITS BACK ON THE TERRITORY
Adam Giles MLA
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Country Liberals’ Shadow Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Indigenous Affairs Minister, Adam Giles, said this year’s Federal Budget was a disappointment for those hoping for a significant boost in the Territory’s infrastructure base.

It also confirmed the Commonwealth’s commitment to taxing the regions – and the Territory’s economy – through the 40% mining resources super tax.

“This tax will affect the sustainability of local communities and regional towns throughout the Territory,” Mr Giles said.

“Mine operators will now reassess expansion opportunities or mine life cycles.

“Investments by mining companies in community infrastructure such as roads and sporting facilities in regional towns are also under threat.

“Why Labor would want to tax the biggest contributor to the Territory economy - 26.5% of GSP – is anyone’s guess.

“This Budget also lacks a clear direction for infrastructure development.

“It left Territorians holding the same bag as last year in relation to investment in East Arm Port or Darwin airport.

“The Budget papers also highlight Labor’s performance in Indigenous housing, bragging that 7 houses had been built in the Northern Territory under SIHIP in two-and-a-half years.

“Strangely, Treasurer Wayne Swan seemed unaware of this fact during his interview with Kerry O’Brien on the 7:30 report.

“Here’s hoping the Coalition wins this year’s Federal election and we can put the Territory back in the budget.

“If we are to grow the Territory we need investment in key infrastructure such as roads, ports and airports and a keener focus on the regions.

"Unfortunately Labor has turned its back on the Northern Territory."

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