ABS FIGURES SHINE A LIGHT ON CONSTRUCTION SLOW-DOWN
Kezia Purick MLA
Date 27th May 2010

The latest Australian Bureau of Statistics construction figures provide a detailed explanation of why there are no cranes on the Darwin skyline and why the Territory’s regions are also lagging.

Deputy Opposition Leader Kezia Purick said construction work in the Territory fell by 29.4% in the March quarter, more than three times the national downturn of -9.3%.

The Territory was the country’s worst performed jurisdiction with expenditure falling by 17.6% in building work done, 37.6% in engineering work done resulting in an overall fall of 29.4% in construction work done.

“The Henderson Government’s talk about infrastructure spending is a smoke-screen, with more than half of last year’s infrastructure budget re-voted.

“Despite the Government’s rhetoric, the Bureau of Statistics figures show that Labor has done precious little to revive the economy with a significant, meaningful, construction program.

“Levels of construction in the Territory are down to 2003 levels and the value of work in the pipeline is also down.

“Instead of making promises it doesn’t keep, the Government should release a clear construction timetable for the Territory that provides industry with the certainty it needs to prosper.”

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