CLP delivers blueprint to send the Territory backwards

Opposition Leader Delia Lawrie said the progress report released by the CLP Government’s Renewal Management Board (RMB) is a blueprint of their plans to send the Territory backwards.

“The CLP Government has put this document together as part of their plan to sack public servants and slash services to Territorians to pay for their unfunded election commitments,” Ms Lawrie said.

“This document lacks credibility. It has been constructed by hand-picked mates of Chief Minister Terry Mills and is not endorsed by Treasury.

“A disclaimer at the front states: ‘The views expressed in this report are those of the RMB and not necessarily those of the Government. Unless otherwise stated, all financial estimates and projects in this report refer to the Non-Financial Public Sector (NFPS) and, while largely based on NT Treasury information, are in some instances estimated by the RMB’.

“One of the report’s authors has been a subject of a Public Accounts Committee report before and was found to have artificially amended Territory Budget figures.

“The CLP Government has made it clear that they are more concerned about profits than people.

“The Labor Government had a responsible Budget and financial position with a step down in deficit across the forward years through fiscal management of staffing caps, efficiency dividends and a reduction in the capital works program.

“Labor deliberately went into deficit after eight surplus budgets in a row, shaving $582 million off debt. We took responsible action to keep Territorians in jobs, businesses open and the economy in growth to ward off the worst effects of the Global Financial Crisis.

“In the 11-12 Treasurer’s Annual Financial Report tabled in Parliament last night, the audited account of the Territory’s finances shows an improvement in deficit position to $425 million.

“The Territory’s Treasurer has admitted that the financial situation ‘isn’t dire’. Our economy is the envy of the nation – predicted to grow at the fastest rate over the next five years and credit ratings agency Moodys confirmed our AA1 status with a stable outlook in August.

“At a time when the Territory is poised to benefit from economic growth, the new government is putting it at risk with job cuts, service cuts, plans to sell public assets and attack visionary projects like the Marine Supply Base because they need to fund a raft of irresponsible unfunded election commitments.”

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