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ENTRY FEES FOR TERRITORIANS TO FOLLOW GOVERNMENT DECISION on MUSEUM

The CLP Government must continue to support the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory with ongoing funding, Shadow Minister Gerry McCarthy said today.

“The announcement that the Museum and Art Gallery is going to lose all government funding is a disaster for Territorians and visitors alike. Without government support the only way a cultural facility in a small jurisdiction like the MGANT could survive would be to charge entrance fees.

“Territory families love their museum and the introduction of entry fees would see the skyrocketing rise in the cost of living under the CLP Government continue.

“Thousands visit MAGNT every year and we all take our visitors there – it's a family ritual for many. We know from experience in other jurisdictions that introducing entry fees leads to visitors numbers falling anywhere between 50 and 80% cent. This would send the Museum and art gallery into reverse and threaten its future.

“While there is nothing wrong with establishing the MAGNT as a statutory authority to withdraw public funding is wrong, mean spirited and must be stopped.

“The CLP have simply gone too far this time, cutting the Museum and Art Gallery off from public funding will force the museum to introduce fees. MAGNT won’t survive otherwise, even if corporate support grows, and it’s Territorians and the tourism industry that will bear the cost,” Mr McCarthy said.

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