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CLP CUTS CREATE CHAOS

The Leader of the Opposition, Delia Lawrie, today joined the Australian Education Union NT Secretary, Peter Clisby, at Darwin High school where the full effects of the CLP Government’s education cuts are being felt.

“We are hearing reports that Darwin High school has up to 120 extra students that have enrolled than was planned for,” Ms Lawrie said.

“The CLP Government slashed too many teaching positions so now Darwin High is facing a shortage of about 10 teachers to cover these extra students.

“The education system in the Territory is having to operate in chaos and confusion, reacting to the realities of the CLP’s slashing.”

Mr Clisby said teachers and schools are struggling to cope with the resources they have.

“Teachers, parents and students are not going to sit back and let the CLP Government damage the Territory’s education system,” Mr Clisby said.

“The effects of the CLP Government’s cuts are being felt far and wide.

“Schools have been experiencing difficulty piecing together timetables and are offering less subject choices than they previously had simply because they don’t have enough teachers to cover the classes.”

Ms Lawrie said along with teachers, there is a growing number of workers in the Territory that are frustrated with the CLP Government’s antics.

“The CLP Government has its priorities wrong,” Ms Lawrie said.

“The CLP Government is not standing up for the workers that do the heavy lifting in the Territory.

“While the CLP Government pushes policy that only takes care of their mates, the people on the frontline of Territory services, such as teachers, firefighters, paramedics, port workers and bus drivers are left to fend for themselves.

“Other Government workers are afraid to speak out, fearing the loss of their jobs with the CLP Government looking for ways to find ten per cent savings in Government agencies.”
“Territorians are struggling under the pressure of high cost of living and massive power bills – knowing too well that if they lose their job they probably can't afford to live in the Territory.

“Territory businesses are feeling the pinch amongst the uncertainty.

“And last week the CLP Government awarded a massive advertising tender to a Gold Coast firm rather than supporting local business.

Ms Lawrie said that the Chief Minister, Adam Giles, and the CLP Government have turned their back on Nhulunbuy and offered nothing in the way of support for the residents and businesses struggling due to the curtailment of the Rio Tinto refinery.

“It is clear that the CLP Government did not represent the workers of the Territory,” Ms Lawrie said.

“The CLP Government has nothing but contempt for Territorians working hard to make ends meet.

“The CLP Government is focusing on themselves while Territorians are missing out.”

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