 MEDIA RELEASE

Lynne Walker
SHADOW MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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TOLLNER LEAVES RATEPAYERS IN THE DARK OVER POWER HIKES

Shadow Minister for Local Government, Lynne Walker, said today the CLP Treasurer Dave Tollner was continuing to leave Territory councils in the dark about when they will have to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars in new power price hikes.

Ms Walker said Mr Tollner had refused to give LGANT certainty around the introduction of new PowerWater streetlight charges, despite repeated questions at yesterday’s LGANT meeting in Katherine.

“Dave Tollner’s refusal to say when these new charges will be introduced makes it hugely difficult for local governments to plan their budgets,” Ms Walker said.

“What we do know is that councils will be facing hundreds and thousands of dollars in extra costs with PowerWater saying they are introducing a new streetlight repair and maintenance charge.

“This cost shifting by PowerWater means Palmerston Town Council will have to pay more than $575,000 and in Alice Springs the local council estimates an extra cost of more than $300,000.

“Ratepayers will end up paying again for the CLP Government’s mismanagement of PowerWater, as councils will have no choice but to increase rates to cover the extra charges.

“This comes on top of the power prices hikes still to hit Territorians in July and January.

“Leaving Territory councils in the dark as they try to prepare their budgets for the coming financial year is totally unreasonable and Dave Tollner needs to come clean and let ratepayers know exactly how much they will be facing in extra charges and when they will come into effect.

“Thinking they can just slug Territory councils with a surprise half a million dollar bill whenever they like shows just how out of touch and chaotic this Government is.”

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