The Government's refusal to scrap its plans to increase car registration by $30 will make the average Territory family around $100 worse off, CLP Leader Terry Mills said today.

Mr Mills said since coming to office the Labor Government has increased car registrations three times, grabbing back $85 of the $90 car tax that plundered $11m from the pockets of Territory families.

From July 1 the cost of registering an average family car will increase 6% from $402 to around $430.

“More and more this Government increases the financial burden on Territorians. Little wonder many are deciding to leave,” Mr Mills said.

“Today the Treasurer admitted his Government could have stopped the rego increase using some of the extra $36 million in Federal funding it received, but his Government had chosen against this.

“Instead the Martin Government has decided to dig deeper into the pockets of Territorians to fund the shortfall for its TIO Motor vehicle Accidents Compensation scheme (MACA).

“The Government is claiming the increase has nothing to do with it, but the truth is the Government funded the scheme with $10 million last year and it could have done it this year as well.

“TIO administers MACA for the Martin Government so the Government is underwriting a loan to itself. There is no need to be digging into the pay packets of cash strapped Territorians said.

“Another increase in car registrations will cost the average Territory family around $100. Many families have dad with a car, mum with a run about and either one of the kids with a car or there is a boat and trailer or a motorbike, so it has a big impact.

“Territorians are doing it tough enough as it is without being hit with another increase in car registrations.