10th April 2005

Labor Government Must Bow to Increasing Pressure and Cut taxes

The Country Liberal Party Leader Denis Burke today welcomed the comments from Independent Member for Braitling who said that the Labor government must act to remove Territory taxes because of the huge amount of GST revenue the Labor government has received.

Mr. Burke said that with both Territory Independents calling for the Labor government to cut taxes, the Treasurer must immediately give Territorians a guarantee that this will occur in the up-coming May Budget.

“The Country Liberal Party has already given a pledge that it will reduce these taxes and with Labor continuing to double-dip on stamp duty, it is ripping Territory tax-payers off. The Labor government has a responsibility to ensure that taxes are reduced, given the extra $600 million it has received since 2001 from the GST,” Mr. Burke said.

“The Labor Party wants to have the cake and eat it too. The Labor Party wants all the extra revenue from the GST but doesn't want to get rid of any of the tax burdens it is meant to be replacing.

Mr. Burke also said that comments today from the Treasurer’s office were astounding given that the Labor government had been in government for almost four years but had refused to remove the stamp duty on the GST the Commonwealth places on insurance premiums.

“For four years that haven't done a thing about this. For four years they have been reaping this windfall from Territorian tax-payers but didn't do anything about it. The Labor government owes Territorians an explanation why they haven’t removed the tax,” Mr. Burke said.

“The Labor government must tell Territorians exactly how much money it has received from this and then guarantee that it will remove the tax and return it to the pockets of Territorians immediately.”