Terry Mills
Leader of the Opposition

Economy's downward spiral a problem of the Chief Minister's own making

20 March 2004

The Territory economy will continue its downward spiral while the huge adult population exodus continues CLP Leader Terry Mills said today.

And Mr Mills said the blame can be tracked back to the Chief Minister for failing to listen to her own economic development summit in 2001.

“Our business community pleaded with the Chief Minister to pick up the CLP's proposed wharf precinct development and get it underway for the sake of the economy,” Mr Mills said.

“Instead the Government shelved the development and it is still a full 12 months away before the first sod of dirt is even turned.

“And while it put this development on hold for three years it slowed the economy down even further by reducing Government spending and delaying payment of its bills.

“Rather than bring forward new projects to stimulate the economy the Government chose to sit back and ride on the coat-tails of projects already put in place by the out-going CLP Government.

“The sad and alarming facts are that people have given up on the Government telling them for the past three years that things are going to get better. More people are packing up and leaving the Territory than coming.

“No economy as small as the Northern Territory’s can afford to lose 3,200 people in a year. And according to the latest September quarterly figures the Territory is right on track to lost another 3,200 people this year.

“We are losing more than 66 people a week. Some 70% of these would economic contributors to our economy.

Ends