Communications Contract is a CLP Legacy for Territory Tax-payers

The Shadow Minister for Communications today said that the awarding to Telstra of the Northern Territory Government’s telecommunications contract was a legacy of the initiatives that the former CLP government brought in.

“I thank Optus for their work since late 1999 and congratulate Telstra on being awarded this major contract”, Dr. Lim said.

“One of the major goals of the CLP government when it introduced the outsourcing of the telecommunications contract was to open up the market and create a competitive environment in telecommunications. The CLP did this in order to provide the most comprehensive, value for money process for the Territory taxpayer in the government contract, but also provided Territorians with a choice of service providers.

“The outsourcing of the contract also brought in another service provider to the Territory and increased the number of available services. In such a small market such as the Territory, the CLP saw this as vital to creating and expanding the communications industry.

“The competition improved services and ultimately, has provided the Territory taxpayer with the best service for the best money. The CLP are justifiably proud of their decision to outsource this contract in 1999 and believe it has benefited all Territorians.

“Telstra, in its bid for the government contract, promised that it will bring a second call centre into the Territory and that in the package it will also increase bandwidth for our telecommunications. I now look forward to Telstra fulfilling its promises.

“I congratulate Telstra for its successful bid, in the knowledge that Optus has generated a significant business base that it will be able to continue in a viable manner.”