John Elferink  
Shadow Minister for Police, Fire & Emergency Services,  
Local Government, Indigenous Affairs, Community  
Development, and Regional Development  

**NT Government leaves Local Government authorities in financial limbo**  
30 September 2004

The Martin Labor Government’s 2005 budget has been in place since July 1 yet Local Government Authorities in Central Australia remain in the dark on what funds have been allocated to them.

Shadow Minister for Local Government, John Elferink, said today, ”It is now fully one quarter into the new financial year and still Local Government Authorities have no indication of what their budget parameters will be. This situation is seriously hampering the ability of many Authorities from delivering much needed services”

“Local Government Authorities rely on funding from the Northern Territory Government to help deliver services like litter management, health and education programs, maintenance and infrastructure. We’re not talking about a small amount of cash here but significant sums which have a major impact on the health and wellbeing of the communities that Local Government Authorities care for,” Mr Elferink said.

“This is the mismanagement of the Minister for Local Government and is unnecessarily penalising people in Central Australia, particularly those living in regional and remote areas.

“Minister Ah Kit is too busy caught up worrying about defending himself in court against defamation allegations and is letting his responsibilities to Territorians be neglected.

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