Another $1m wasted by Martin Govt – Education review put on hold because of election

The Territory Government has wasted close to a million dollars of taxpayer’s money and caused unnecessary concern among teachers, students and parents on a review it now does not intend to implement - at least not until the next Territory election is out of the way, CLP Shadow Education Minister Dr Richard Lim said today.

“This is another costly backflip that has been a waste of taxpayer's time and money,” Dr Lim said.

"For most of last year the Martin Government caused turmoil and anger in the community when the 52 recommendations of the Secondary Education Review were released.

“Great community angst was caused in the community by the government when it suggested that:

· Learning Precincts will be formed;
· Year 7 classes will be transferred to high school;
· Year 10 will be transferred to Senior Secondary Colleges; and
· the NTOEC will be closed and distance education outsourced to South Australia.

“Now the Chief Minister Clare Martin has backflipped on the whole of the Secondary Education Review, saying that there will be no changes for schools this year.

“It is dishonest and farcical for the Chief Minister to claim she will not be rushed into making decisions that are likely to impact on young people and their futures given the Government has had the report since December 2003 and the way Clare Martin has rushed through the giveaway of Territory Parks without consultation and rushed through the development of Darwin's wharf precinct without very little consideration for public consultation.

“The truth is the Government's planned changes will cause massive disruption to schools, teachers, students and parents alike and this is an election year and the Chief Minister is trying to nullify the huge amount of community anger and rejection of the recommendations.”