Families Hardest Hit By Big Taxing Government

After rejecting the No New Taxes Bill the Government has moved to raise its first set of charges in the form of a tax on families. Today the Treasurer Syd Stirling, announced an increase in power, water and sewage charges.

“The Treasurer didn’t waste any time in raising fees since rejecting the No New Taxes Bill last week.” Terry Mills said.

“This is an extra burden on families and it represents everything that I was worried about. The cost of putting a roof over your head has never been higher and now the Treasurer is putting the boot in.

“The claim is that it is a CPI increase on all of these charges. While that may be so Syd has been given a golden opportunity to take advantage of the hundreds of millions of extra dollars that he has received in GST revenues and other taxes that he’s levied on Territorians.

“Since coming to power they have taken $101 million dollars per year more from Territorians than the CLP did. Now the opportunity had come along to do the right thing and cut Territorians some slack. Not a chance.

“In spite of all the extra money Territorians are still going to be slugged extra. The purpose of the CLP No New Taxes Bill was to save Territorians from exactly this sort of avaricious conduct. The Chief Minister dismissed it as a political stunt. The fact was she knew that charges were going up in the next budget and they couldn’t support any bill that shielded Territorians from increases.

“What is also curious is the timing of this announcement. With 4 weeks to go until the Budget is brought down the Government wants to slip this slug in while all attention is turned to the Katherine floods. The cynicism of this Government is breathtaking. I bet that the floods will also become an excuse for any number of the Territory’s financial ills in spite the budget containing a contingent liability for such events.

“I fear that there is more to come.”

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