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Labor Ministers ‘running down the clock’ in Estimates Committee

This year’s crucial examination of the Government’s Budget spending was again hamstrung by refusal to allow more time to question Ministers on their portfolio responsibilities.

CLP Leader Jodeen Carney labelled the lack of time available for sustained scrutiny as a blight on Labor’s claims of open, honest and accountable government.

Ms. Carney said, “Initial evidence shows that we, the CLP, asked almost double the amount of questions than last year. But the problem is that we had just as many questions prepared that need to be asked but couldn’t because of Government time restrictions.

“I am pretty sure that the Independents are just as disappointed as we are with the short time available.

“The whole process is dishonest in that there is no reason more time can not be allocated to get full questioning of the Government.

Ms Carney said the time-wasting and stone-walling tactics by Ministers was akin to footballers ‘running down the clock’.

“The further we progressed and the more questions we asked, it became more and more obvious that the Labor Ministers just didn’t care.

“Labor is basking in its arrogance and is obviously taking the attitude that because of the far superior numbers in Parliament, they can give short shrift to accountability and Budget scrutiny.

“Let me state this loud and clear: we will challenge the Labor government on everything they do no matter what the numbers in Parliament; no matter how little they care about accountable government; and no matter how arrogantly they treat the Territory public.”