PLANS TO MOVE SALARIES SECTION TO DARWIN SHOULD BE SCRAPPED

As part of the Government’s Priorities Review there are now plans to move the Salaries Section of DCIS in Alice Springs to Darwin. This has the potential to remove at least 20 Government jobs from Alice Springs with the resultant economic impact on a town that is already missing out on the Darwin based boom.

“This cost cutting exercise has two facets.” Shadow Minister for Central Australia Richard Lim said today.

“The first aspect is that of centralisation which further removes another arm of government up to Darwin. The second and far more sinister aspect is that the public servants who work in the area will be redirected to jobs that they, in every likelihood, won’t want to do.

“This means that many of the people who work in the area will end up resigning.

“This is how the Martin Labor Government plans to get rid of public servants without sacking them, by making their work conditions difficult or even unbearable so that they choose to leave. The Treasurer said that he wanted to get rid of public service numbers by attrition.

“This is the process that he was talking about; forcing public servants into jobs that they will find untenable so that they will resign.

“The Salaries Section should not be moved because the Central Australian economy needs to be supported by Government as well as other sectors. Many people in the public service need to deal with their salary issues with Salaries staff face to face.

“Not only is the Martin Labor Government desperate for money, it is prepared to strip Alice Springs of jobs to boost the Top End economy.

“We know that the wages bill for this Government is set to blow out this year and this is where the cost cutting begins.

What other burdens will Alice Springs and its public service have to bear for the Martin Labor Government’s failure to manage its Budget?

“When will the Minister for Central Australia, Peter Toyne fight for Alice Springs?”

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