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Takeaway Alcohol Floor Space Limit

Mr HIGGINS to CHIEF MINISTER

How can anyone believe or take seriously your claim that Labor had a 400 square metre policy at least prior to April 2016 when you were contacted by the Australian Hotels Association requesting the exact same 400 square metre floor space limits?

Subsequently, you held a farcical process of negotiation and meetings with Dan Murphy's, including sending a CEO to Sydney to resolve the impasse, but then your solution was rolled in Cabinet in March. Why did Cabinet knock back your proposal for other takeaway licences to be sacrificed, including the drive through at Parap, to make way for Dan Murphy's in Darwin? How can anyone take you seriously?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, in the Northern Territory we have a government that is very serious about how to tackle alcohol in the NT and having a robust health policy. We have said we are prepared to test this through an independent liquor review being led by former Chief Justice Trevor Riley because we want the best health policy we can get in the NT to tackle the problems of alcohol.

We are prepared for our public health policy, given the tick by public health experts, to be tested properly through this process to see what comes out the other end. On behalf of government, I can say that we take public health policy very seriously—the impacts alcohol has on people's personal health, the health of their families and safety of Territorians. We know alcohol is often, unfortunately and tragically, responsible for many of the safety issues we have in the NT.

We have said we are prepared to take all our policies in this space—it is a very wide-ranging review—and look through this, see what it comes up with and take those outcomes very seriously. I believe there is a big chance—you can almost guarantee it—that post this review we will see some serious transformation in what we do about alcohol. As a government, we have always had proper recognition and been very serious in previous iterations of Labor in government about how we tackle alcohol.

When it was first introduced, the Banned Drinker Register was ground-breaking. The Banned Drinker Register version two is ground-breaking. Police under the Labor government last time started the process of temporary beat locations. Without doubt, we take the issue of alcohol very seriously. What we decided is public now. You have been welcome to contribute to the work of that committee—no, more than and much stronger than a committee—the independent inquiry being led by former Chief Justice Trevor Riley to have a look at all the data and information ...

Mrs LAMBLEY: A point of order, Madam Speaker! Standing Order 110: relevance. The question was not asking for the veracity of your alcohol policy; it was asking about your dodgy deal with the alcohol industry.

Madam SPEAKER: It is not a point of order. Chief Minister, you have the call.

Mr GUNNER: You can take us seriously as a government because all of our measures about alcohol have been serious. We always treat this issue seriously. Right now we are going through a very serious inquiry into alcohol in the NT and how can we do it better. That is what drives us.

We are constantly saying how can we do this better. We have done a lot in this process already. What else is there that we can do to be even better as a government on the issue of alcohol in the Northern Territory? We will continue treating this issue seriously. I thank former Chief Justice Trevor Riley for his work to date and, as a government, we are very much looking forward to his report.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION Takeaway Alcohol Floor Space Limit

Mr HIGGINS to CHIEF MINISTER

If the Chief Minister is serious he will be able to explain how the 400 square metres relates directly to and supports his health policy. Where is the scientific evidence?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, that has been asked previously and answered repeatedly in this Chamber, including during the committee stage debate around the legislation. We have provided copies of that research in the past, it goes to size and density and the impacts alcohol has on health. It is pretty simple, the more stores you have and the bigger they are, the more alcohol you sell and the more harm caused. That is the basic guts of that research. We have provided that in the past.

We have experts backing up—public health policy FARE. I cannot remember what FARE stands for. FARE have spoken on this. The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and others have spoken positively about our policy, essentially based on the more supply you have. They support this.

Our public health policy has been supported by public health experts and we previously talked about that in the Chamber in response to questions as well as in the committee stage debate. We have talked about that research before.

Independent Inquiry Into Political Donations

Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Can you update the House on progress towards the government's election commitment to have an independent inquiry into political donations? How will this inquiry restore trust in government, and are you aware of any alternate policy approaches?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I think this is an important question because we gave an important commitment to Territorians at the last election that we would have, for the first time in the NT, an independent inquiry into political donations. We did so because we recognised legitimate concerns in the community about integrity, transparency and the desire to ensure that the public interest drives public policy in the Northern Territory.

We are determined that this independent inquiry be genuinely independent. That is why we have appointed former Justice Mansfield on the recommendation of an advisory panel, consulted in line with the NT judicial appointments process. We went through the process to select an independent person to ensure this had all the teeth of an independent inquiry. It is the first time the NT has had an independent inquiry into political donations.

Mr Mansfield held appointment as justice of the Federal Court between 1996 and 2016. He has extensive experience, particularly in the Northern Territory context, through his work on native title matters and also in the areas of administrative law, constitutional law, intellectual property and commercial law. The terms of reference give broad powers to the inquiry, the first time this has ever happened in the NT—not only into the significant concerns around the CLP's Foundation 51 slush fund, for example, but also any donations in the last 10 years. CLP, ALP, anyone can look at any donations in the last 10 years because on our side we have nothing to hide.

We are happy to be open and transparent and that is why we have created this independent inquiry. What do you do when you have something to hide? You scrap an inquiry. Under the CLP last term, we saw the Member for Nelson get a motion up into an inquiry—the CLP were asleep at the wheel. The CLP promised through the Casuarina by-election to honour and have that inquiry. What did the CLP do? They scrapped that inquiry after the Casuarina by-election.

It was hard to keep track of the CLP last term because it had a lot of changes. The members of the CLP at that time include the Leader of the Opposition and the Member for Araluen, both responsible for the independent inquiry being scrapped. Both responsible for overturning that inquiry because they obviously had something to hide. We do not.

We have a clear conscience and had that independent inquiry into political donations, something never done before in the NT. The other thing never done before in the NT is the creation of an independent commission against corruption, which we are also doing.

On our side we believe in restoring trust. That is what we are doing. We have nothing to hide, which is why we are happy to have independent inquiries and give those people proper powers to look into all donations in the NT—stark contrast to the CLP and its behaviour in the last term.

Dan Murphy's – 400 Square Metres

Mr HIGGINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Your office sent an undated letter to Dan Murphy's in February, stating that you were elected promising to bring back the Banned Drinker Register and restricting the public area of bottle shops to 400 square metres. In my hand I hold your election commitments, the promises published on the Labour website, but nowhere contained in these can I find a single reference to 400 square metres.

Chief Minister, other than in your secret letter to AHA, where was your 400 square metre promise made public to Territorians before the election, and can you table those documents now?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, as I have said before in response to this issue, we provided that letter publically last year. We were very happy to make that letter available in the lead-up to the last election. We received letters from dozens of people and we were happy to reply all those people—I think over 40 groups wrote to us, like COGSO and Rainbow NT and we replied to all of them.

We have been public about this, we provided a copy of that letter and have been open and transparent about our public health policy. The reason the CLP have that letter is because we provided it.

We have been open and transparent about policy positions. Over 40 groups wrote to us before the election. We responded to all of those groups and were happy to do that. This is what happens every election cycle, people write to you and you respond to them, nothing out of the ordinary there. This is a public health policy. It is how we are approaching the difficult and challenging issue of tackling alcohol in the NT. It is both a health issue and a crime issue.

We have been up front about that and take this issue very seriously. Our public health policy has been ticked off by public health experts, welcomed by them. We have said we are happy to have our public position tested. We think there is more we can do in this space around alcohol and how we deal with alcohol.

We are looking forward to the work from former Chief Justice Trevor Riley on the independent inquiry about how you tackle better—because we need to keep tackling this alcohol problem. We are not pretending we have all the solutions here.

We have to keep working on it. We are being upfront about our public health policy position, putting it through this independent inquiry and working on it to see if we can do better. Former Chief Justice Riley has significant experience through the courts and the Territory dealing with this issue. He is aware of the pressure on our frontline including the impact on our hospitals, justice system, police and on individuals and families. This is a serious issue and we take it seriously.

Mrs LAMBLEY: A point of order, Madam Speaker! Standing Order 110: relevance. The Chief Minister has not answered the question. The question was, where did he publish his policy? Where did he make it public?

Madam SPEAKER: It is not a point of order. It is not for you to say whether the Chief Minister has answered the question.

Mr GUNNER: I believe I have answered the question now and have answered the question before. We have made that letter public. That is why the CLP have a copy of it. We gave it to the media. We have been open and transparent about our response to the AHA.

As we responded to—there were over 40 groups that wrote to us before the election. We take this issue very seriously. We are happy to get everything tested. We are looking forward to seeing what comes out of former Chief Justice Trevor Riley's independent inquiry.

There is a chance that everything in that letter will be upturned by this inquiry, because we genuinely want to do what best for Territorians and it is the public interest that drives our public policy.

Independent Commission Against Corruption

Ms NELSON to the ATTORNEY-GENERAL and MINISTER for JUSTICE

Last year Territorians told us loud and clear, as is evident by the election results, that they want and deserve a government they can trust. Attorney-General, can you please update the House on how this government is delivering on its commitment to create an independent commission against corruption?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, Territorians want and deserve a government they can trust. After four chaotic years under the CLP, people have a very low level of confidence in government and we need to restore that trust. As the head of our parliament here, I am sure you too are very concerned and wanting to achieve that trust in the accountability of the process of parliament.

We promised Territorians we would put in place an independent commission against corruption and we are delivering on that commitment. Budget 2017 has an allocation of \$3m to establish and begin the operation of an ICAC. We will see legislation introduced into the House, but that legislation has already been through a robust consultation with Territorians. It is based on the Martin Review recommendations and we accepted 50 of the 52 recommendations. The two recommendations we did not accept ...

Members interjecting.

Ms FYLES: It is interesting, those opposite like to interject and make comments, but they were not interested in putting an ICAC in place when they were in government. You wonder what they have to hide.

But we based the legislation on that report. The two recommendations we did not agree to were based on accepting the South Australian Commissioner and we felt we needed to make sure we have a commissioner appropriate to the Northern Territory.

Before the bill entered this House it was out for consultation as an exposure draft bill. Something rarely used in the parliamentary process. But this bill is significant and important enough for Territorians that it went out for public consultation. You, Madam Speaker, wrote to me requesting an extra consultation in your electorate, which we were happy to provide. Those consultations were well attended by Territorians. Territorians ...

Members interjecting.

Ms FYLES: Listening—from those opposite that ran as far as they could from an ICAC and now they are complaining.

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Order! I would like to hear what the Attorney-General has to say. Order please!

Ms FYLES: Those consultations provided information and comments from government stakeholders, experts and individuals. Consultations were held across the Northern Territory. Territorians want an ICAC and that is what this government is delivering. The ICAC will be retrospective. I know there has been concern from some members of the community. We have been working as efficiently as possible to get this in place, but we need to do it right. We need to have strong legislation that protects those providing information and also ensures the path can be followed through with an ICAC.

I look forward to providing this legislation, something this government has delivered, unlike those opposite who could not run further from delivering an ICAC. We are proud to put this in place. It will be retrospective, so Territorians can have confidence that matters going back can be reviewed—the questionable decisions we saw under the former government.

Political Donations to ALP

Mrs LAMBLEY to CHIEF MINISTER

Just over 24 hours ago I informed every minister in your Cabinet that I would be asking the following question, this was to enable you to prepare your response. As leader of the NT Labor Party, would you please provide details of all political donations made to the Northern Territory ALP in the lead-up to the 2016 Northern

Territory General Election by anyone with connections to the Northern Territory alcohol industry, including past and present members of the Australian Hotels Association. That will include every company, individual, business or entity connected to the NT alcohol industry.

Madam SPEAKER: Chief Minister, the question the Member for Araluen has asked relates to a party political matter and not the government of the Northern Territory. I would rule it out of order, but it is up to you whether you choose to answer it or not.

Mr GUNNER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. What I will do is provide advice on how I dealt with the question, if I may?

Madam SPEAKER: No. If you choose to address the question that is your choice. Given it is a party political thing it is not within the Northern Territory Government's domain, but it is entirely up to you.

ANSWER

Thank you. As you have confirmed and as the member knows, donations are received by parties—by the Territory Labor Party in this instance—and handled by them, so it is not information I have or have received. I can confirm that all donations received during the 2015–16 financial year have already been disclosed and are online. I also confirm that while donations are a matter for parties, in the interests of transparency, I have asked the Territory Labor Party secretary to check donations received for the 2016–17 financial year. If any fall into the category the Member for Araluen has mentioned, disclose those—where they got that information or know that information.

I have asked the Secretary of the Territory Labor Party to follow up on that detail and see if any of it is available. The Territory Labor Party secretary was asked for this information in this financial year and has already provided information reported in this financial year. This is ahead of the disclosure process because we, as a government, are trying to be open and transparent.

Ahead of current legislated disclosure process, the party has already answered questions the Member for Araluen has put forward. As a political party, we are being open and transparent. That stands in stark contrast to how the CLP have handled this in the past.

Mrs Lambley: You are not being open and transparent at all. You are avoiding the question.

Mr GUNNER: That is hypocritical, based on how the opposition and Independents previously handled this.

You cannot take a question like this without mentioning that those opposite were elected in 2012 as the beneficiaries of hundreds of thousands of dollars raised by Foundation 51, and the express purpose of Foundation 51 was to hide the details of donations from Territorians.

They created an industry to hide donations. What we have done is provide advance advice of who has donated ahead of when we are required to by law, because we are trying to be open and transparent.

These questions have previously been answered by the secretary of the party. I have asked them to do further work and see if there is more information we can provide ahead of the legislated time frame to be open and transparent. This stands in stark contrast to the actions of the current CLP and those who were members of the CLP at the 2012 election, which established Foundation 51 for the purpose of hiding donations.

There is stark contrast between how we have handled it and how that mob handled their donations.

Government Procurement Processes

Mr SIEVERS to MINISTER for INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING and LOGISTICS

How is this government restoring trust in the Territory's procurement processes to deliver better outcomes for local businesses, jobs and the community?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, the Northern Territory Government is one of the largest buyers of goods and services, and it is important that in doing so the taxpayer gets the maximum value for the dollar and also the Territory gets the maximum value for the dollar.

That is why we have made extensive changes to the government procurement framework, particularly to ensure we see more value for the Territory. We have all heard the stories where companies from interstate claimed they were local, and then we saw good projects for the Northern Territory not going to locals. We want to see less of that which is why we changed the procurement framework, to ensure there is more work around value for the Territory.

Previously, this definition was 'value for money', a definition we felt was far too narrow and meant Territory businesses and jobs had been lost. With the 'value for the Territory' definition we have prohibited shortlisting on price alone and placed a cap on the maximum weighting in price tender evaluations to 30%.

That means shortlisting on price first and then applying the buy local weighting can no longer occur. This does not remove the need for good value, but it allows government to acknowledge that buying local has a broader benefit for the entire Territory community.

It is about ensuring we invest in local businesses, and it ensures we have better checks and balances in the system. We are seeing good results. During the 2016–17 financial year 875 quotations and tenders were assessed across tiers two, three, four and five infrastructure projects with an award value of \$422m. Of these, 856 were construction contracts awarded to Territory enterprises at a value of \$407m, which was 98% going to locals.

This government inherited many things from the former CLP government, as we know. Unfortunately, one of those things was a trust deficit. We are working very hard to make sure people have more trust in government.

We are establishing an ICAC; we have an inquiry into political donations, which the previous government failed to deliver. We are making sure we have more robust checks and balances throughout our procurement system in the Northern Territory. It is important that people have faith that government money is being spent for the best value for the Northern Territory.

VISITORS

Madam SPEAKER: I welcome Ken and Jill Jobson from interstate. They came to Parliament House a couple of days ago and participated in one of our public tours and wanted to come back and watch Question Time. There are mobility issues so I have asked them to sit on the floor because they wanted to watch Question Time. Welcome to Parliament House.

Members: Hear, hear!

Buy Local Plan – Funding

Mr MILLS to TREASURER referred to MINISTER for TRADE, BUSINESS and INNOVATION

My question goes further on the question that was asked and answered previously that related to some practical matters about the implementation of policy. Your budget outlined a \$200 000 allocation for the independent advocate of the Buy Local plan. Can you advise how this money will cover the cost of wages, office, travel and other overheads? Is the position part-time? When will this position be filled?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, the \$200 000 covers the cost of the advocate. Providing secretarial support for the advocate is picked up from within the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation. The \$200 000 is to cover the advocate's position.

I believe I can advise this—I will advise it anyway ...

Mr Mills: Go ahead.

Mr GUNNER: Sorry?

Mr Mills: Restore trust and confidence. Go ahead.

Mr GUNNER: We have an acting Buy Local advocate at the moment until the person who will be the full-time advocate is available to assume the position. The acting advocate is Doug Phillips. I cannot clarify when the full-time advocate will commence. The money set aside is for the advocate position and the secretariat side has been picked up by the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation. I am happy to get you a briefing at any time.

Mr Mills: It is a full-time position?

Mr GUNNER: It has been negotiated with the person who is taking the position. Essentially, we will go through a process of seeing what the workload is on the advocate. We are happy for it to be full-time, but if it is not full-time, I am happy to talk to the person about the hours needed to go towards the outcome. We also have a procurement board and the department that will be working with them as well.

There will be a process of working out with the advocate and the industry groups about what will deliver the outcomes we are looking for. At the moment the advice is that it will not necessarily require a 38-hour working week every week, which is fine. We are in the hands of the advocate about that. It is based on the advocate's advice as much as us.

That is what we are working on: an acting advocate and there will be a full-time advocate.

PET and CT Scanner Tenderer – Update

Mr KIRBY to MINISTER for HEALTH

You recently announced a successful tenderer for the PET scanner and CT facility. Can you please update the House about how this government is improving the health and wellbeing of all Territorians?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I note the interjections from those opposite. It was something they could not deliver in their term of government.

I was extremely pleased to be at Royal Darwin Hospital on the weekend with the federal member, Luke Gosling, and announce that local company Sitzler has won the tender to build the PET scanner facility at Royal Darwin Hospital.

Territorians want and deserve to be accessing high-quality healthcare. Part of that is diagnostic tools. It is a major step forward for those Territorians facing a diagnosis or treatment for cancer or other illnesses that a PET scanner can be used in providing clinicians with the most up-to-date information.

It was a pleasure to be there with Sitzler, which has done previous work at the hospital. It knows the complexity of working in an operating health facility and is committed to delivering this project.

This is an example of this Territory Labor government working with the federal government to deliver for Territorians. A total of \$15m from the federal government and \$3m from the Northern Territory government secured this project and stopped it from being the political football it was under those opposite.

The Commonwealth's Community Development Grants Programme provided \$15m to build the necessary facilities and purchase the PET scanner, as well as \$3m from the Northern Territory Government, which will allow for the building and purchase of a cyclotron. The PET scanner will be located next to the current medical imaging, within what will be medical imaging at Royal Darwin Hospital. That will have MRI, X-ray, the PET scanner and the CT scanner. This is what the clinicians said would be best to maximise patient flow and provide the best care to patients.

The project, which is expected to get under way in the next two to three weeks, will be carefully planned to make sure we minimise any impact on patients and staff. I acknowledge our hard-working staff at RDH, who understand the important upgrades this will provide.

PET scanners are a critical diagnostic tool not only for cancer, but for other diseases and illnesses such as Parkinson's and epilepsy. I have been provided advice that it also assists in diagnosing rheumatic heart disease.

Around 150 Territorians have to travel interstate, and there are many more who do not have access to this imaging because they do not want to or are too unwell to travel.

Having this PET scanner located in Darwin is a big win for Territorians in providing them with the best quality healthcare. It also provides us options, as it will be the only PET scanner in the Territory and northern Australia, with our close proximity to Asia.

I congratulate Sitzler and look forward to further updating the House on this project. It took this Labor government to deliver it, unlike those opposite.

Fuel Discount Arrangements

Mr WOOD to TREASURER

I was asked this question relating to a fuel discount arrangement between United Petroleum and AANT to see if that arrangement is open to other fuel companies. Can you please advise whether the Northern Territory Government has an arrangement in place that includes direct or indirect funding of an amount financed by the Northern Territory Government to either United or AANT?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I have asked my agencies of Treasury and the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, and we are not aware of any funding arrangements from the Northern Territory Government to either AANT or United.

Government Digital Strategy

Ms UIBO to MINISTER for CORPORATE and INFORMATION SERVICES

Can you please inform the House of any progress the government has made towards its election commitment of delivering the Territory's first comprehensive digital strategy?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I am proud to be the minister responsible for Corporate and Information Services. I truly see how important this sector is to our economic future in the Territory.

We are a government which understands that strong ICT policy underpins jobs growth in the Territory. It underpins our kids' future and addresses the issues of today. It is about getting better services for people in the bush and building safer, more vibrant communities, as well as restoring trust in government. That is what is behind our commitment to deliver a whole-of-government digital strategy.

I was pleased to launch the ACS report Digital Pulse. This is a growing sector in the Territory, and we should make sure we can harness the growth in that sector and prepare Territorians for those jobs.

Planning for our strategy is well under way. I am pleased to get around the Territory and meet with many community and industry stakeholders to talk about telecommunications and technology and, more broadly, how we can best harness it, be active players and contributors in the digital economy, and take advantage of our new emerging and evolving technologies to grow our economy.

I commend those stakeholders for being very active players in the economic summit process. I have held a round table with women in ICT about how we can increase participation of women and girls in the ICT industry in the Territory. I held a symposium in Alice Springs and was pleased with the turnout, as well as community meetings in Katherine. It allowed me to hear directly from Territorians about the challenges and opportunities that exist for us in growing our ICT industry and making the most of these opportunities.

I met with the Commonwealth Minister for Regional Telecommunications a week ago to talk about critical telecommunications across the Northern Territory and our ICT needs. I have sought the advice of our peak

ICT industry bodies including the Australian Computer Society and the ICT Industry Association, as we develop this first-ever Territory digital strategy.

These conversations have informed the development of the discussion paper which will be released next month. We will be seeking more views on how we can really harness evolving technology in the Territory. We are well placed for this, not only in this nation, but we are very well placed for this globally, and it underpins so much of what we are doing.

I will be putting that information out there and would encourage everybody to play an active role in making sure we are forming our digital future.

Dan Murphy's in Darwin

Mr HIGGINS to CHIEF MINISTER

According to records, your Chief of Staff told Dan Murphy's in October that he was not interested in a store being set up in Darwin. One of your ministers confirmed this to the *NT News*; he was upset about it. Chief Minister, how is it that you claim you did not find out about Dan Murphy's plans until December or, now I think, late November? Or do you want to change the date again?

ANSWER

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have been extremely consistent that I was aware ...

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER: Order!

Mr GUNNER: I was aware of Dan Murphy's interest in coming to town after the Channel Nine News report. I completely reject the Leader of the Opposition's assertions just then. They are not the details we have ever given or agree with in any way, shape, or form.

I first became aware of the desire of Dan Murphy's to come to Darwin after it broke on the Channel Nine News and I have been very consistent on that. I reject the Leader of the Opposition's question.

Katherine as an Agribusiness Hub

Ms NELSON to MINISTER for PRIMARY INDUSTRY and RESOURCES

Minister, you recently spoke about how the memorandum of understanding this government has executed with the Japanese government is assisting us to deliver on our election commitment to establish Katherine as an agribusiness hub. Can you please advise how this government is working with industry in other ways to establish the great electorate of Katherine as an agribusiness hub?

ANSWER

I have lost track of how many times myself, with the assistant minister and most of my colleagues, have been to Katherine. I must say, we have a plan for Katherine as an agribusiness hub of the Northern Territory. The Member for Katherine is at the forefront of all of those plans. I thank her for her work as well as the assistant minister, Jeff Collins, the Member for Fong Lim, for his work in this area. We have a plan.

We sit down with Industry, ask the questions we need to ask and more importantly, we listen to the priorities they need for governments to support.

I visited the tropical trees and mangoes—Nick Nikiforou and Mitch Curtis from King's Produce. We do have a plan for Katherine. Part of the \$224.5m horticultural industry of the Northern Territory—it is important we have a plan as a government. We can just talk about it, but we must make sure we have investment into the areas that will support the industry.

I am happy to announce the \$1.55m this government has given to NT Farmers. It is an important opportunity to support the industry. Why are we so happy with this? Because we will have a designated and dedicated officer based in Katherine with an NT Farmers office as a part of this position.

We have three positions. We have funded a plant industry development officer in Katherine; we have a workforce planning coordinator and a mango industry development office based in Darwin. I will quote Simon Smith, the NT Farmers president:

This funding is a game-changer for the industry.

He also says:

It will give us three years of certainty on how farmers can work with researchers and add value to what they do.

If we can increase productivity by 10% then it will add half a billion dollars to the economy in 10 years. This is why this government is listening and delivering on the priorities industry needs to support it.

We are supporting the horticultural industry and will support our other industries. But we must make sure that when we put money in, it is targeted and will achieve something. This is what we are doing. We are committed to growing the Katherine region as a food bowl for Australia.

This means jobs for locals, jobs for Territorians and a future for all of us.

Weddell – Development

Mr WOOD to CHIEF MINISTER referred to MINISTER for INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING and LOGISTICS

On 25 August 2016, you were quoted by the ABC that:

Labor will prepare for development for Weddell in our first term and we will work to develop Kenbi. In this way rural areas will be able to remain rural.

I like that cliché.

What preparation have you done in relation to Weddell and what have you done to remove the Noonamah Ridge from the so called peri-urban development between Noonamah and Hughes, the rural landscape we know is so unpopular?

ANSWER

Ms MANISON (Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics): Madam Speaker, we all agree in this Chamber that rural areas should stay rural, whether that be in Alice Springs or the Greater Darwin area. We believe the rural area is a very special part of both of these places. It is a particular lifestyle that people buy into, love and want to see protected. We value that.

There will be a body of work to discuss with Territorians their vision for the Northern Territory and what they see is appropriate development across the Northern Territory. This will be a document to generate discussion across the Territory about what people feel is appropriate development and where.

We will be looking at the Greater Darwin areas, specifically Darwin, Palmerston, Weddell and the rural area. We will be looking at Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek, Nhulunbuy and remote communities. We will go out across the Territory to ask people what they see as appropriate development and what they see for the vision for the future of those areas.

Weddell will be part of that conversation, as will Kenbi in the Cox Peninsula. It is important that we understand what people see is appropriate and what is not. The planning commission has continued work, for example, on activity centres in Coolalinga and Howard Springs, which you are well aware.

There are some which do not necessarily agree with the Member for Nelson, but from a planning perspective, from myself, it protects the lifestyle of people in rural area, because it goes into the nitty-gritty of where it is appropriate for some densification, and to protect the other areas when often, as you know too well, planning applications come across the desk of government asking to densify parts of the rural area. I think this sets a better set of rules about what is allowable and what is not when it comes to densification of the rural area.

It is important to protect the lifestyle and I believe this type of discussion with the community will ensure this government is aware of what Territorians believe is appropriate and what is not when it comes to future planning and development of the Northern Territory.

It is important the government is in touch with what people believe is appropriate. It is important we have a far ranging discussion that invites all Territorians to get involved, as well as the different tiers of government. Council tends to have quite an opinion on it, as well as residents and industry groups. It is important that the new council are part of that discussions, and I am looking forward to your contribution, too, Member for Nelson, so we hear clearly from Territorians about the future planning decisions of this government.

Building Better Schools

Mrs WORDEN to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Minister, all the schools in Sanderson are very excited—and working together with government to get the extra funding and leadership that has been provided by this government for the vital work they do with our kids.

Building Better Schools was a key commitment of this government. Can you provide members with an update on this initiative and how many projects will be completed this year?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, the \$300 000 for Building Better Schools was one of a number of election commitments we had in education that we are delivering. I was just trying to think but, I cannot remember that the opposition had a single election commitment for education during the campaign. I was really just trying—I guess that is more cuts towards education.

The positive thing about being the Minister for Education is that in 12 months of government I have had some strong briefings with the leadership team in education and it has been wonderful to hear about the 30 commitments we made and how well they are being rolled out and being achieved.

Fifty-four schools across the Territory are in the first tranche—so, this financial year—of receiving the \$300 000 Building Better Schools funding. Just like the Member for Sanderson, I know how excited schools are to have their own funds and to be able to talk to their school council and school boards to make decisions on how to spend the money.

The other great thing about this scheme is that it is about buying local, which stimulates the economy. Those small jobs such as tiling, painting and irrigation keep tradies in employment. Darwin Data Cablers, a local cabling company, has received \$300 000 to upgrade the local area network at Dripstone Middle School.

The Member for Brennan and I had the pleasure of being at Bakewell school and seeing upgrades to their covered walk area and drop off zone. Those drop off zones are really busy in the morning and afternoon. Mums and dads are wrangling prams and in the Wet Season they are getting wet when they drop off kids. It is wonderful to see Bakewell school's beautiful drop off area to keep families comfortable and safe.

I had the pleasure on Friday to go to Gray school, one of the great schools in my electorate, and see that Water Dynamics had upgraded the irrigations there. Gray school had some dry grass. It had to use the maintenance office's time to move sprinklers during the Dry Season. Now they have a wonderful irrigation system.

It is wonderful to be the Minister for Education and see our election commitments being delivered across government and non-government schools. Fifty-four schools will benefit from the \$300 000 Building Better Schools program this financial year.

Censure of Chief Minister

Mrs LAMBLEY to CHIEF MINISTER

You promised that your government would operate with honesty and integrity, yet it is 12 months in and you appear to have accepted political donations in return for regulating then legislating to restrict the floor space of takeaway liquor outlets to 400 square metres. In less than a year you have broken your promise to Territorians to be open, fair, honest and ethical. Your leadership is under question with inconsistent stories

and implausible explanations to the most basic questions in relation to this decision. This is unacceptable. Territorians deserve better.

Pursuant to Standing Order 67 I move that this Assembly censures the Chief Minister and Minister for Trade, Business and Innovation for misleading the Assembly in regard to:

1. His party's dealings with the Australian Hotels Association Northern Territory and the secretive manner in which his government formulated the regulations of section 33AB(1) of the *Liquor Act*, preventing Dan Murphy's from obtaining a store licence and entering the retail liquor market in the Northern Territory.
2. The Assembly notes that his actions constitute a breach of clauses 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 5.2, 5.3 and 6.2 of the Ministerial Code of Conduct, as well as clauses 5, 10 and 11 of the Legislative Assembly Members' Code of Conduct.

Ms FYLES (Leader of Government Business): Madam Speaker, we have important legislation to debate, but if the members opposite feel this is the best way they can be open and transparent with Territorians then of course we are happy to talk about these issues.