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Dan Murphy's Legislation

Mr HIGGINS to CHIEF MINISTER

The majority of Territorians are overwhelmingly opposed to your government banning Dan Murphy's from Darwin, but you are rushing the Dan ban legislation through this House today instead of letting the company have its day in court simply because you know you will lose.

What do you have to hide, and why are you ramming this bill through the House today? Is it simply to protect your dodgy Dan ban deal and avoid it being tested in the Federal Court hearing in early July?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I can assure the Leader of the Opposition of a couple of things. Firstly, Dan Murphy's is welcome to come to Darwin. All we are saying to Dan's is that we want them to follow the same law as every other Territory business. I think it is very reasonable for Dan Murphy's to follow the exact same laws that apply to all Territory businesses.

Dan Murphy's is welcome. It can come tomorrow. I said that to the company, and I said it to Woolworths. Dan's is welcome, but it has to follow the same laws as all other Territorians.

Nothing is being rushed today. This is on the Notice Paper. This has gone through ordinary processes. We are giving certainty to existing government policy, and the law is no different to what we have done in the past. That debate will come up later today and the Leader of the Opposition is welcome to talk to that.

Dan Murphy's is welcome to the Northern Territory. Woolworths and Dan Murphy's are welcome to set up shop. We are being very consistent in saying to them that they need to follow the same law that applies to all other Territory businesses, and that is it. That is very fair and a very reasonable position to take. I think every Territory business thinks it is a reasonable position to take.

Nothing is being rushed. There is a bill today, but it is not a rushed bill. It will be up for debate later today, and the Leader of the Opposition and others are welcome to talk to that.

Dan Murphy's can open tomorrow; there is nothing stopping it. It can literally open a store tomorrow, whack the Dan Murphy's sign up and sell some alcohol. There are a few processes it has to go through, which every other Territory business goes through. The same law applies to them as to all other Territory businesses, but there is nothing that says a Dan Murphy's sign cannot go up.

Woolworths and Dan Murphy's could take an existing licence, which is what they are trying to do with their Stuart Park one. They could go to that store, repaint it and put the Dan Murphy's sign up. Done! Dan Murphy's!

Nothing is being rushed. Dan Murphy's is welcome. All we have said to Dan Murphy's and Woolworths is they need to follow the same rules as every other Territory business. That is a very fair and reasonable proposition. The Leader of the Opposition should explain why Dan Murphy's and Woolworths should have different rules to other Territory businesses; I do not get that. He can talk to the bill later today.

Economic Development Framework

Ms NELSON to CHIEF MINISTER

Chief Minister, this week you launched the government's Economic Development Framework. How will this framework help create jobs now and in the years ahead?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank every Territorian, business, community group and industry group who helped contribute to the Economic Development Framework. They are very much the co-authors of this, and I appreciate all the work they did. We need to provide certainty; certainty drives confidence. We have to do this in genuine partnership.

We took a very clear jobs plan to the last election. We used that jobs plan as our agenda for the economic summit process. We have had meetings up and down the track and across the Territory, one on one, over

cups of tea, and I thank everyone for contributing to the Economic Development Framework. It was fantastic work for them.

Under the Economic Development Framework is an infrastructure strategy, and under that we have our 10-year infrastructure plan, providing certainty. It is critical. I thank everyone who helped us do that because it will drive jobs in the Territory. There are five major sectors for growth that we have identified there: Defence; agribusiness; energy and minerals; tourism; and international education. Those are really important areas. We are providing certainty about how we will work with those areas to drive the economy and the future of the Northern Territory. That will be a shared division. That will help us invest and drive jobs now and down the track.

It has been fantastic to have this work and this joint partnership with the community and economic industry groups. I have taken this EDF work to the Prime Minister. I said, 'When we have this north Australian forum up here later this year, when we sit down'—Mr Canavan and I, north Australian ministers and other forums—'we now have something to work towards. I want from you, Prime Minister, greater certainty about where Commonwealth money will go. I will always take extra cash, but if you can tell us with more certainty what you have on the horizon, that will help. Here is what we have done. Here is the work we have done. It has triggered the Cattleman's Association of the Northern Territory and their counterparts in WA and Queensland to form their own strategic plan'.

I said, 'We have a principle in developing the north White Paper about better beef roads. Now we need greater details for more than 12 months ahead. We will have strategic plans, the Northern Australia Ministerial Forum and our 10-year infrastructure plan. This can be done. What we want from you, Prime Minister, is greater confirmation and certainty about where your money will go because that will trigger private sector investment'.

That is just one example. Certainty drives an investment and confidence. That is what we are delivering as a Territory government. We have delivered an Economic Development Framework, a shared vision co-authored by the community, and a 10-year infrastructure plan. We can drive certainty. We will drive confidence and jobs in the Northern Territory.

I thank everybody up and down the track who will help contribute to this. This is a shared document and vision for the Northern Territory. This is its success. This is the way the government and I can confidently invest in these projects and the future of the Northern Territory to unlock private sector investment and jobs.

Palmerston Car Park Funding

Mrs FINOCCHIARO to MINISTER for HOUSING and COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

People in Palmerston are becoming increasingly concerned with the actions of the City of Palmerston, which recently signed a contract for a \$13.5m car park despite not receiving ministerial permission to borrow the finance for the development. You rightly knocked back the loan application on the basis that it did not include third party oversight or a payment plan and saddled rate payers with a large amount of debt just a few months out from an election. As more information comes to light, including possible rate rises and a lack of finance, that level of public concern is increasing.

Minister, people in Palmerston want to know if you have commenced an investigation and whether you will be taking steps to put the council under administration in the lead-up to the election.

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the Member for Spillett for the question on behalf of the people of Palmerston. Over the last few months I have received various correspondences, including from members of this House, regarding concerns over the governance and financial status of the City of Palmerston.

It is important to remember that local government councils are represented by democratically elected members in which community places a great deal of trust and faith in ensuring the initiatives and decisions made are open, transparent and for the benefit of the greater community.

Local government councils are bound by the *Local Government Act* under which elected members are collectively responsible for managing their business and financial affairs and ensuring council resources are used fairly, effectively and efficiently. Earlier this month I received a request from the Palmerston

council's mayor seeking approval to borrow a substantial amount of funds. I understand this was one of the largest requests ever by a Territory council.

Under the *Local Government Act* a council may borrow money but only with the minister's approval. Where there is no direct liability placed on the NT Government by a council borrowing, it needs to obtain the minister's approval before any borrowing takes place. In practice, a council that could not make repayments on a loan would come to government for financial assistance. Therefore, while government is very supportive of developing the Palmerston CBD, I had a number of concerns about council's borrowing request for \$14.5m.

Important procedures were not followed, and I have serious concerns about the contractual obligations that council has entered in to, as well as the financial assumptions it has made. I do not accept that the residents of Palmerston should have to face a possible rate hike in order to rush through a development that has not had proper scrutiny.

With council elections just three months away, it does not seem reasonable to place such a large debt on an incoming council. A project of this magnitude should only be supported after extensive consultation. I am not convinced this has occurred. I have asked offices from the Department of Housing and Community Development to continue to work with the council to fully understand the situation. I expect to hear back in the near future with a full brief of the information gathered and the options going forward.

Darwin CBD Development

Mr KIRBY to CHIEF MINISTER

I am extremely proud to be the assistant minister for a vibrant CBD. Can you please explain how the government is creating a vibrant CBD and how this will help create jobs and grow local businesses?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the Member for Port Darwin for the question. He is doing excellent work.

Darwin is the capital of northern Australia. We are Australia's gateway to Asia, and Asia is the gateway to Australia. It is critical we understand our place in the region. It is not just the NT Government saying Darwin is the capital of northern Australia. When you look at the map the Commonwealth Government has done for the top of Australia, we are the only capital on it. The Commonwealth Government has chosen Darwin as the capital of northern Australia. The Australian Government has also confirmed that with the cities deal in the memorandum of understanding we have signed off with the Commonwealth Government.

We have also seen other countries recognise Darwin's global strategic value. We are the destination for Japan's largest ever private sector investment outside Japan. We have a natural and special relationship with Indonesia. We are the busiest and largest live cattle export port. China has an interest in our port, and the Americans have their Marine rotation here. We have a globally strategic, important position. We are the capital of northern Australia.

A vibrant Darwin CBD is not just essential for Darwin but for the whole of the Northern Territory. The CBD is an economic driver in and of itself. It was identified by the economic summit and the Darwin Major Business Group as being in need of significant investment and clear planning. I thank them for their work and contribution. I thank the Commonwealth Government for signing that memorandum of understanding. I thank the local government; Darwin City Council has been very positively engaged in this cities deals process. Katrina Fong Lim fought for the cities deals with the Prime Minister at a meeting of local government down south.

We will have a significant investment into the Darwin CBD. We know this is what business wants. There was a very clear message from business that we need an investment in our CBD. That is one of the five major things we identified from the summit process. Through this we will see the finishing of the State Square project. We will see a significant investment at the old hospital site.

We will see the work finally done to tackle the heat issues in Darwin. It is a hot place, but we are hotter than we need to be. We are not making this up; it is not guesswork. We have done a computation fluid dynamic study of the CBD of where our heat is and how it moves through the CBD and what we need to do to tackle this heat. We have the baseline data; we have done the research of where the heat islands and the heat sinks are and how heat moves. Cavenagh Street is a river of fire. We have to do more to make Darwin

walkable and liveable, and we can do that. It is all doable. One of the lessons we learned from Singapore is that we can do this in Darwin.

This is the challenge we have set and we will invest in Darwin as the capital of northern Australia. It is an investment that Darwin deserves. I thank businesses for the input they have made into these plans.

Police Presence Outside Bottle Shops

Mrs LAMBLEY to MINISTER for POLICE, FIRE and EMERGENCY SERVICES

On 5 August 2016, the ALP candidate for Braitling, Dale Wakefield, told the *Centralian Advocate*, 'I want to be really clear; we are not getting rid of police outside of bottle shops'.

You, as the Opposition Leader at the time, reassured voters in the lead-up to the August election that police would remain outside bottle shops. After the election, as Chief Minister, on 9 September 2016, you said to the *NT News*, 'Police at bottle shops will remain'.

Today we were advised by the NT Police Commissioner that, under your direction, they will be scrapping police outside of bottle shops in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Katherine.

Chief Minister, have you and the Member for Braitling been lying to Territorians about no longer having police outside bottle shops?

Madam SPEAKER: Member for Araluen, could you retract those words please.

Mrs LAMBLEY: Have you been deliberately misleading Territorians?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the Member for Araluen for the question because it is something that is very important to talk about and provide clarity on.

There will be temporary beat locations under Labor. There will be police ...

Ms Fyles: We introduced them.

Mr GUNNER: Yes, we introduced them.

There will be police outside bottle shops after 1 September.

If you read the article you will see that the Police Commissioner did not say they will be scrapped. It does not say that I gave a direction to the Police Commissioner for them to be scrapped, so that was very misleading, Member for Araluen. That has not happened.

There will be police outside the front of bottle shops after 1 September, and we will have temporary beat locations and the Banned Drinker Register, which was scrapped under the CLP. It is not a hypothetical or made up scrapping but an actual scrapping. The Banned Drinker Register was scrapped under the CLP last term, straight away, with nothing put in its place.

We have said, and we have been very clear about this, that we will bring in the Banned Drinker Register and a Territory-wide measure against the supply of alcohol to problem drinkers. After 1 September the police will have the best tool they have ever had, the Banned Drinker Register—they have said that—and they will have temporary beat locations. Nothing will change.

It is a Territory-wide measure, the Banned Drinker Register ...

Mrs LAMBLEY: A point of order, Madam Speaker! Standing Order 110: relevance. You are not changing anything? Everything will be exactly the way it has been operating over the last four years with no reduction of the TBLs?

Mr GUNNER: After 1 September we will have a change, which is the Banned Drinker Register. As we have seen over the last four years with the CLP's policy on TBLs, police get called away; you cannot guarantee

police outside bottle shops 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They get called away to attend motor accidents; they have to do training; they have issues they need to respond to.

After 1 September we are giving police greater flexibility and operational decisions, which are decisions that should always be made by police. Police in Alice Springs make these decisions; police in Alice Springs are part of the local community. Politicians in Darwin do not and should not make decisions about the operational patrolling of police in Alice. They will have more tools at their control. Police are in charge of police, which is very important.

We have to be smarter about how we tackle crime and antisocial behaviour in the Northern Territory. The Police Commissioner has been very consistent in his opinion that police are members of the community who understand the importance of temporary beat locations, and people understand the effectiveness of temporary beat locations.

I can assure the Member for Araluen that no direction has been given from this government, as she has suggested, to scrap TBLs—none at all. The Police Commissioner ...

Mrs LAMBLEY: A point of order, Madam Speaker! Standing Orders 110: relevance. Are you saying the *NT News* go it all wrong?

Madam SPEAKER: Member for Araluen, that is not a point of order.

Mr GUNNER: The Police Commissioner confirmed again with me today that he guarantees temporary beat locations.

Madam SPEAKER: Chief Minister, your time has expired.

Infrastructure and Local Jobs

Mrs WORDEN to MINISTER for INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING and LOGISTICS

Can you please update the House on the amount of infrastructure rolling out in the Territory and how it is supporting local jobs?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, a big part of the budget and a critical pathway going forward for the Northern Territory is the investment in infrastructure to support jobs. There was a record investment of \$1.75bn in Budget 2017–18 to support and create jobs for Territorians and support local businesses. It is critical that we do this now during the move from the construction to the operation phase of the large Ichthys project, which will have an impact on several jobs in the Northern Territory.

It is about building for the future. We are seeing some slowdown in the economy and population growth is an issue. This government has taken firm, swift, decisive action to invest in jobs for the Territory for the future growth of the Northern Territory. We have also strengthened our Buy Local policy to ensure that government investment of \$1.75bn flows through to support local jobs.

We have ensured that the strong investment in infrastructure, which was already invested in this financial year, is continued. We have seen record amounts of cash go out the door to support local business and 97% of tier two, three, four and five contracts are going to locals; 98% of award values of construction contracts went to locals; and 99% of award values of tier two, three, four and five construction contracts went to locals.

We are further strengthening that by having an industry advocate who will ensure that companies are actually buying and using local when they say they are. We will keep a thorough watch on those tendering for contracts to ensure they are going through.

This is also about targeting that infrastructure investment to make sure we are delivering job-creating infrastructure for the future of the Northern Territory. We are continuing with the shiplift project; over \$700m is invested in roads and transport infrastructure; the \$1.1bn 10-year housing program is rolling out; and there is \$389m in the remote housing program over the next 12 months.

We are seeing investments through the cities deal—re-invigoration into the Alice Springs CBD and Darwin CBD. We have fast-tracked a range of major construction across the Northern Territory to invest in local jobs. We are building the Territory economy for the future by making sure we are supporting jobs.

Research Libraries

Mr WOOD to MINISTER for PRIMARY INDUSTRY and RESOURCES

Unions, librarians and researchers are opposed to closing our research stations at Berrimah and AZRI in Alice Springs. Research libraries provide local knowledge and information that is essential if we are to develop the north.

Is it true that you have ignored the opposition, even your union comrades, and have decided to close these libraries? If you have, why have you made such a silly decision?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the Member for Nelson for his very important question. Primary industries are very important to the Northern Territory economy. In regard to libraries, there were budget-saving measures put in place by our government during the period of locking away the budget.

Member for Nelson, I respect all the work that primary industries do, including the libraries at AZRI and Berrimah Farm. I will give an update at further notice.

Budget 2017–18 – Repairs and Maintenance

Ms UIBO to MINISTER for INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING and LOGISTICS

How will the government's record \$297m investment into repairs and maintenance help support and create jobs in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, the repairs and maintenance budget is a critical budget across the Northern Territory. It ensures we have sound investment going into government infrastructure so we can deliver better services for Territorians.

That investment will prolong the value and the usage of critical government infrastructure. In this budget we have taken swift and decisive action to invest in jobs for Territorians at a time when it is most needed. We know there are challenges in the next 12 months for supporting and creating jobs. That is why we have the \$1.75bn investment in infrastructure across the Northern Territory.

We have significantly stepped up the repairs and maintenance budget to the record level of \$297m in Budget 2017–18. This is targeted to ensure long-term quality government infrastructure and to support jobs. We know that getting repairs and maintenance money out the door has far less of a lead-in time to a major capital works project. That work tends to go out in far smaller packages. It supports small tradies and small to medium businesses across the Northern Territory. Most importantly, it is about making sure we invest locally in Territory jobs and businesses; that is critical.

It is not just about investment in the Darwin area or Alice Springs. It is about investing across the Northern Territory to ensure repairs and maintenance money flows through to our roads, across communities out bush and to schools. We have significant works going into those schools with our \$300 000 upgrades. We have significant investment through this record repairs and maintenance program to see more investment into health clinics, police stations, roads and important government infrastructure to support Territorians.

So often departments get their R&M budget, which tend to be fully spent year-in and year-out, well before the end of the financial year. It is a good investment. It will support better services and infrastructure for Territorians. It will support jobs and local businesses across the Northern Territory.

Disability Sector Projects

Ms AH KIT to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can you update the House about recent projects in the disability sector that will build jobs and improve services for people living with a disability?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, there are a number of projects under way in the disability sector that will create jobs and improve services for Territorians with a disability. The National Disability Insurance Scheme is continuing to roll out across the Northern Territory.

This is expected to create more than a thousand jobs across the Northern Territory by the time the full scheme comes into place in July 2019. Many of these jobs will be located across the Territory in remote communities, creating opportunities for long term, stable employment. It will improve access to services for people with a disability who reside in remote communities.

To ensure the success of the NDIS roll-out and prepare for growth our government has secured \$9.25m for sector development to support implementation of the NDIS in the Northern Territory. This funding is being used to stimulate the market, target new and innovative service models, and increase access to a variety of supports for Territorians. Disability support worker training programs will be offered in remote Aboriginal communities to local Aboriginal people to increase skills and grow the remote workforce.

This is an opportunity for people in remote communities to gain new skills and care for people in their community. The Office of Disability has developed the NT Quality and Safeguarding Framework to assess whether providers meet quality and safeguarding requirements to deliver NDIS services during the transition phase. This is extremely important.

The framework in the Territory is considered best practice and has been positively received by the community and NT Disability Sector. The framework will support the sector to strengthen its quality and safeguarding processes and improve service delivery for Territorians with a disability. In addition, there has been a major project under way in Darwin with a shared corporate services hub at Carpentaria Disability Services in Tiwi.

Carpentaria Disability Services received a \$10m grant from the Northern Territory Government to undertake stage one of the phased master plan redevelopment near the Henbury School. Carpentaria Disability Services are also co-contributing \$1.6m. This shared corporate hub will accommodate Carpentaria Disability Services, Carers NT, Alzheimer's Australia NT, Down Syndrome Association of the Northern Territory, Mission Australia and a number of other not-for-profit organisations.

We have a number of these co-located in my electorate, and they bounce off each other and work together. Having previously worked for a non-government organisation in that type of building, I know that it is important and valuable. The tenants are working together towards a shared services model that will offer efficiency and ease of access to a variety of supports. This is about providing Territorians who need access to service to receive those services in a one-stop hub.

Contract and design was awarded to a Territory company, Sunbuild, which is supporting Territory jobs and our economy. I look forward to further updating the House on the NDIS roll-out and the opportunities for jobs for Territorians.

Youth Outreach Worker – DUI

Mr HIGGINS to MINISTER for TERRITORY FAMILIES

Yesterday it was reported that one of your newly appointed youth outreach workers was caught driving under the influence of ice and had prior convictions, including breaching a 12-month good behaviour bond. How can Territorians trust your government when you have allowed a convicted criminal and admitted ice user to work directly with at-risk youth—90% to 100% of whom have self-reported using ice or exhibit behaviours associated with ice addiction—with no background check, police check or drug testing?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the Leader of the Opposition for this important question. We discussed it at length yesterday in estimates. The CEO was able to answer questions on it because it is an operational issue within human resources.

We take this very seriously and have acted immediately. All the police checks were in place and the person had a current Ochre card, as per the legislation that has been in place for a long time. At the moment we are reviewing the working with children checks as part of the response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into sexual abuse in institutions. I have a brief on my desk regarding that issue.

We need to make sure those staff are the most qualified and suitable persons. We acted swiftly when we discovered that someone made a poor choice, and that person's employment was terminated yesterday.

Palmerston Recreation Centre

Mr MILLS to MINISTER for HOUSING and COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A few weeks ago the Palmerston City Council decided to end its contract with the YMCA. This is a matter for the council, but one aspect of this decision has raised an important question in our community, which I hope you can answer.

The Palmerston Recreation Centre was built by the former Labor government and was handed to the Palmerston City Council. If this council, or a future council, deems the recreation centre to be of no further use, is it free to sell that facility? Is it bound by some sort of agreement, and if so, what is that agreement?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for his very important question. I will have to take it on notice because I do not have the details about the contractual obligations in front of me.

Education Funding

Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I congratulate you on the increased funding for education in the recent budget, including the much-needed support for Ludmilla Primary School. I also note the government has provided an additional investment of \$31m per year into education. Can you inform the Assembly how this investment is supporting the creation of jobs across the Territory? Can you also inform us if this investment has increased the number of teachers in our schools?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for his question. It was lovely to attend Ludmilla Primary School with him for the school's 50th birthday celebration on Saturday morning and to talk about the plans for the \$6m upgrades. The previous Member for Fong Lim abandoned and ignored Ludmilla Primary School, so it is lovely to see that school revitalised after 50 years.

I am pleased to tell members that this government is investing an additional \$31m in education. It is creating more jobs for Territorians while providing greater support for our kids.

Government schools have received an additional \$20m in their budgets. They are making decisions on how to use this funding to best support the needs of their students. Many schools, with their additional \$20m, have decided to employ more staff. Compared to this time last year there are about 125 more full-time staff in our schools, including 53 more classroom teachers and 72 more teacher assistants, specialists and support staff.

There are also more people being employed by school councils. Some schools have decided to put that money into school council accounts for council employees; so there are even more than 125 staff being employed because of that investment.

There are also 32 more staff in our regional offices through the additional \$8m for children with special needs, challenging behaviours or disabilities. They are in allied health and school support areas.

It is wonderful to be able to talk about more staff in education after the four years of the CLP government, when there were fewer staff in the corporate areas of education and in schools. Our dollars are now hitting the mark and schools are employing teachers.

As I have said many times in this House, teachers are great corporate citizens. They are the people who will stay in the Territory. Teachers are involved in great things in our community such as sporting teams, clubs and drama and dance groups. I am very pleased to see those additional teachers in our schools.

Families as First Teachers is expanding, and it is now one of the biggest employers of Aboriginal women in remote communities. There are 32 FaFT programs with 85 staff, and this includes 57 Aboriginal staff. We will continue to expand the Families as First Teachers program across the Territory. It is a great initiative.

Crime Statistics

Mrs FINOCCHIARO to CHIEF MINISTER

Contrary to previous characterisations of the crime crisis in the Territory by you and your colleagues as hyperbole, a news spate and a media beat-up, statistics released last week show that over the last year commercial break-ins were up 90% in Darwin, burglaries were up 52% in Palmerston and sexual assaults were up 400% in Tennant Creek.

Why have you failed to make protecting Territorians' homes, businesses and communities your top priority? Why are police numbers down? How many electronic monitoring bracelets have been issued under the new legislation by police? How many \$10 000 business security grants have been issued by your government?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, there were quite a few questions there. I am happy to answer them.

I can assure the opposition and Territorians that tackling crime is a priority of this government. Territorians have a right to be safe. We are taking action to reduce crime in the Northern Territory. We are making investments that will reduce crime in the future. You need short-, medium- and long-term actions to break the cycle of generational crime in the Territory and reduce crime now.

One of things we have done is give police certainty about a four-year recruitment cycle. This means the maximum number of police possible will be recruited over the next four years without reducing the quality of police. Twenty-eight members in Recruit Squad 130 have just graduated. Twenty-nine members from Recruit Squad 131 will graduate in November. We will have a constant production of highly-trained police over the next four years. We will honour the broken promise of the CLP made in the 2012 election about 120 extra police. We will deliver those extra police.

The business grants were announced in our budget. Maybe the opposition needs a briefing on how a budget works. The budget starts 1 July. The grant scheme for businesses will commence on 1 July to help upgrade their security. It is an important grant scheme. We will match them dollar for dollar up to \$10 000 to improve the security of their business, and we will do that through a CPTED audit.

It can be easy to make an investment in the extra security of your premises that does not actually work. For example, some businesses I have visited had the CCTV cameras in the wrong places. We want to make sure this does not happen with our grants, and that there is crime prevention through the design process to ensure money is invested in the right areas to make that business secure. We recognise the costs and we will be there to help businesses.

We answered the question about the bracelets in estimates as well. No bracelets have been issued yet. Police have gone through the training program and are building the regulations around the decisions they make. We have given police all the powers and resources they need to use those bracelets at the police bail stage. There is nothing more that we can do, as a government. Police are going through training, and they have the powers to issue bracelets.

Room to Breathe Program

Mr COSTA to MINISTER for HOUSING and COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How is the government's Room to Breathe program delivering jobs across the Territory?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the Member for Arafura for his support in delivering on Labor's \$1.1bn housing program in remote areas over 10 years.

Discussed at length during estimates—a great opportunity to have that conversation with Territorians in the absence of the CLP and the Independents—was the underlying principle of Labor's plan in remote housing, which is jobs. We will build the capacity in every layer of the housing sector. It will be in tenancy management, good cyclical repairs and maintenance, the customisation of existing dwellings through Room to Breathe and the new builds. It is all about jobs. That is how Michael Gunner's Labor government making the difference in the bush, by building local capacity and creating jobs.

We consulted widely across the Territory last year. The Chief Minister brought forward \$10m in early works for Room to Breathe. I am very proud, Member for Arafura, to speak about jobs that are happening now.

Work has commenced in Hermannsburg under Tangentyere Construction, with seven employees. Three of the employees are locals living and working in Hermannsburg. Tangentyere Construction also have seven staff working on Room to Breathe in Areyonga, with five locals employed.

Kybrook Farm had eight houses that were deemed overcrowded. Work under the fast-tracked Room to Breathe will see six lots receive verandas and bedrooms. Savanna Alliance has commenced Certificate II training for four locals from Kybrook Farm. This means four locals out of a workforce of six will be working on the Room to Breathe program. Work will commence next week in Milyakburra, where another two locals will be employed to work for Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island Enterprises.

Central Desert Regional Council is involved with early works in Engawala and Lajamanu. In total, 13 staff will be involved in these works, with nine Indigenous workers and four local people. In Ramingining, ALPA will employ at least 10 local Yolngu to work on the Room to Breathe early works program.

This is work that would not be available without the Michael Gunner Labor government's commitment to jobs for local people.

Work is under way in these communities and others. Room to Breathe is about local people and local jobs, as well as improving the lives of Territorians in remote areas.

Infrastructure – Auditing High Rise Buildings

Mr WOOD to MINISTER for INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING and LOGISTICS

Minister, since the Grenfell disaster in the United Kingdom has your government done an audit of the type of cladding on our high rise buildings? If so, are any of our buildings a concern?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, we all saw the horrific images in London on our TV screens last week. Our sincerest condolences go out to the people impacted by those tragic events. It was so hard to fathom that something like that could happen in this day and age in a major capital city like London.

The Prime Minister has written to all jurisdictions across the nation, asking them to look at this very issue to ensure things are up to standard and control. We will be assessing those types of issues. In Australia building work has to comply with the National Construction Code, relevant technical standards and local laws. This ensures buildings are safe, healthy and durable. It also reduces the risk of non-conforming and non-complying building products and materials being used.

This is a worldwide point of debate. The Australian Building and Construction Board is in Darwin this week to speak about a range of issues. We also participate in the Building Ministers' Forum, as all governments

do, to ensure we look at issues such as building standards and the materials used in construction to ensure their integrity, safety and quality.

There is more work to be done in this space, Member for Nelson. We are still looking at the issue, as most people are, given this is something that has only popped up in the last week. I assure you we have a building industry in the NT that takes pride in quality and finishes. We have a thorough building certification for these things; however, when you see something like the Grenfell event that has occurred, it helps to go back and look to ensure we are satisfied that we will not see people in that situation here. There is more work to be done and we will be happy to give you any briefings on progress in that space.

Tourism Jobs

Mr KIRBY to MINISTER for TOURISM and CULTURE

I had the great pleasure of visiting many tourism operators throughout the CBD with the Tourism minister, and we got some great feedback about that. Given that tourism is one of the Territory's biggest employers, can the minister please update the House on what the government is doing to grow tourism jobs across the Territory?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for the question and for coming with me on that walk down Mitchell Street to meet with some of our tourism operators, a very varied group in the Darwin CBD. They spoke to us about opportunities and challenges, and we really appreciated that frank discussion. It was great to have the local member there to provide support for the issues raised.

This is an exceptionally hard-working industry. It is worth almost \$2bn to the Territory economy every year. It supports more than 2000 small to medium-sized tourism businesses across the Northern Territory and more than 15 000 tourism-related jobs. It is a huge sector in the Territory, and we continue to work to support it. We are really proud of the work this industry does and that it punches well above its weight in the Northern Territory.

Budget 2017 delivers strongly for our tourism sector through marketing and, importantly, through tourism infrastructure. I heard the Leader of the Opposition talking earlier in one breath about the need to improve tourism infrastructure—which I agree with and am very glad that Budget 2017–18 delivers for that—and then in the next breath telling us that we should scrap the very projects that are there to achieve that outcome. It was very interesting listening to the Leader of the Opposition this morning.

There is an additional \$8m to market the Northern Territory to the world. This is critical for promoting the Northern Territory to our traditional key markets domestically and internationally, including Australia's east coast, the UK, Germany and the US.

We have been very fortunate this year to have a bumper cruise ship season, with 47 cruise ships and 60 000 passengers in Darwin, as well as \$30m into the economy. *Ovation of the Seas*, one of the largest cruise ships, came to Darwin earlier in the year. It has been fantastic for Darwin CBD and the Territory.

Budget 2017–18 includes \$4m to support our efforts to attract visitors from growing markets in China and India. I am very pleased that work is well under way, including a range of grants that are available to help get our tourism industry positioned and China ready. That is fantastic because more visitors are coming to Australia from China and India, and we want to position ourselves to make sure we are getting the benefit from that.

There is also motorsport infrastructure happening. We just had an incredibly successful weekend at the V8s. The Member for Port Darwin reminded me of the Friday night activation and how great that has been. It has brought around 4000 visitors to town ...

Madam SPEAKER: Minister, your time has expired.

Government Travel and Leadership

Mr HIGGINS to CHIEF MINISTER

We know your deputy has been happily indisposed, but it seems that every time you go out of town your government gets itself into a mess and the Attorney-General is left to clean it up. It happened with the Dan ban, the hiring of drug users at Territory Families, escapees from prison, predetermined alcohol reviews, the last minute scrapping of the Home Improvement Scheme and the time you embarrassingly lost it with Katie Woolf on Mix FM when you were informed that members on this side would not partake in your farcical estimates process.

Madam SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, do you have a question?

Mr HIGGINS: Madam Speaker, yes. Each and every time, the Attorney-General was wheeled out before cameras to answer for your government's debacles while you were nowhere to be seen. Chief Minister, who is actually running the government?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I think the Leader of the Opposition just suggested that I should not go to COAG or to Canberra. I think he just suggested that the Chief Minister should not execute business that needs to be done in other places. That is a very puzzling position. There are times when I, as Chief Minister, have to travel to do government business.

I have confidence in my team, unlike the CLP during last term. I went to Japan and came back. I thank my team for saving my seat for me. I thank them for doing the work they are employed to do as ministers of the Crown while I was representing the Northern Territory around the table in Hobart with every other first minister. All of us were there. I am not sure they would accept the Leader of the Opposition's proposition that I should not be at that COAG table. As someone said the other day, 'If you are not at the table, you are on the menu'.

The Northern Territory, as a small player, must be there. We have to be at the table. We have to fight for education. The Gonski deal at the moment is very concerning for us. We are an outlier. There is a perverse situation being created under this current Gonski deal that will directly impact Territory students over the longer term. It is a very concerning deal.

We have to be at the table to put the Territory government's case. The Premier of Queensland will not put the Northern Territory case. The Premier for Western Australia will not put the Northern Territory case. He is there arguing for our money. He is at the table saying he wants what the Northern Territory has. We have to be at the table.

I reject the position from the Leader of the Opposition that I should not travel and represent the Northern Territory. We have to do that.

I thank my team for doing the jobs they were elected to do as ministers of the Crown.

Primary Industry and Resources Jobs

Ms NELSON to MINISTER for PRIMARY INDUSTRY and RESOURCES

How are businesses in the Primary Industry and Resources sector creating and maintaining jobs in the Territory?

ANSWER

I have so much to cover in three minutes. How does Primary Industry and Resources support businesses and Territorians in jobs? By being there, talking with them, meeting with them and continuously listening to how we can improve their business and grow and facilitate investment in these vitally important parts of our economy.

I am talking about the mining sector, which has 6528 jobs. We are looking at cattle, commercial fishing, recreational fishing, agriculture and forestry. Crocodile farming has grown into a \$25m industry in the Northern Territory over the last few years.

I will highlight the fantastic commercial fishing enterprise at Maningrida and acknowledge the great work the local member, the Member for Arafura, has done with the people of Maningrida, who have gotten an Indigenous coastal licence. Two weeks ago 250 kilograms of mullet came from Maningrida into Darwin fish markets for the first time.

We need to continuously encourage and support local enterprises and local businesses. Anybody who meets me knows that I always ask, 'What is your local content in regard to contracts and employment?'

In agriculture, forestry and fisheries we have 1700 direct jobs. Fifty percent of the mangoes in Australia come from the Northern Territory.

I was in the Member for Katherine's region last month—Nino Niceforo at Tropical Treasures mangoes; Mitch Curtis from Kings melons; and Marie Piccone from Manbulloo mangoes, which is an absolutely fantastic local businesses employing thousands of people and Territorians.

We, as a government, have a plan to ensure there are local people getting jobs, have opportunities to grow and raise their family, and have a secure future in the Territory. It is a great place to be.

Temporary Beat Locations

Mrs LAMBLEY to CHIEF MINISTER

I would like to clarify some of the points you made in answer to the question I asked you on your intention of the temporary beat locations. In between asking that first question and now I have had it clarified that Police Commissioner Reece Kershaw said he would be scrapping the TBLs in the Northern Territory.

The answer to the question you gave earlier seems to contradict the Police Commissioner. Could you put this very clearly to the people of the Northern Territory—will your government be scrapping or reducing the temporary beat locations in operation in Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs?

ANSWER

No. There will be police outside bottle shops after 1 September.

Ms FYLES (Leader of Government Business): Madam Speaker, I ask that further questions be placed on the Written Question Paper.