

## CONTENTS

Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children .....	211
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION.....	212
Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children .....	212
Crime Wave in the Northern Territory.....	212
Central Arnhem Highway.....	213
Economic Outlook .....	213
Banana Freckle Eradication Program.....	214
Political Donations Inquiry .....	215
Alcohol Floor Price Policy .....	215
Milingimbi Airstrip .....	216
Youth Services in Alice Springs.....	217
Liquor Act Review.....	218
Job Creation Promise .....	219
Ice Treatment Funding .....	220
Aboriginal Housing NT.....	220
Alcohol Policy – TBLs.....	221
Mining Rehabilitation Funds .....	221
Public Service Cuts .....	222

## Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children

### Mr HIGGINS to CHIEF MINISTER

This week the Minister for Housing and Community Development was called to appear before the Royal Commission into youth detention due to his actions as a minister. According to the transcript from yesterday's hearings, the commission made a request for the minister to provide a submission some weeks ago:

*The commission requested a response by no later than 23 January. We accepted a request by SFNT ...*

The Solicitor for the Northern Territory:

*... to extend that initial deadline to 3 March 2017. We have since been told four times that the statement would be available. On 10 March 2017, on 13 March 2017, which was last Friday, then again this morning, and then again by lunchtime today.*

*In fact, the Royal Commission did not receive the minister's submission until 3.30 yesterday afternoon, indicating just how little regard the minister has for the seriousness of these proceedings.*

Given this latest revelation will you stand beside your minister ...

**Madam SPEAKER:** Your time has expired, Opposition Leader. Chief Minister, I caution members on sub judice, given there is a matter before the commission at the moment.

### ANSWER

Madam Speaker, this provides me with an opportunity to discuss some of the issues we have, as a government which wants to be cooperative, with the Royal Commission as it looks into some very serious matters.

I had a meeting the other day with the Solicitor-General of the Northern Territory to discuss the significant workload that has been placed upon the government and the number of witnesses the Solicitor-General needs to work with; there are over 70 witnesses. That takes a lot of effort from the people who work for government. We are trying to work through that. The Solicitor-General has made comment and representation to the Royal Commission about the workload and what we are dealing with.

It is not for the political point the Opposition Leader is trying to make; it is about the workload that has been placed on the government to cooperate with the Royal Commission. We are trying to be cooperative, but there is a significant amount of work that has to happen. The minister, like others within the NT Government who are being called to testify or asked to prepare statements, is doing this with representation, as is only understandable considering this is a Royal Commission.

To address the Leader of the Opposition's point, this is about workload and pressures on government, nothing else. The minister has been asked to appear before the Royal Commission and will be attending. There is not, as the Leader of the Opposition was trying to allege, lack of cooperation from the minister. This is simply about the sheer workload that has been placed upon the Solicitor-General and the NT Government to cooperate with the Royal Commission.

We understand the Royal Commission has a very serious responsibility; they are looking at quite serious issues, and we are doing our best to cooperate with them. There is a considerable strain being placed on a number of departments to make sure we are doing what we can, as the NT Government, to prepare witnesses, witness statements, provision of information and significant amounts of information. We are also going through old files, some of which are not electronically accessible and require considerable amounts of manual labour.

There is a lot of work being placed upon the NT Government; that is what this is about, nothing else. The minister will be appearing before the Royal Commission and we are doing everything we can within the workload. We have to responsibly contribute to the Royal Commission and cooperate with it.

**SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**  
**Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children**

**Mr HIGGINS to CHIEF MINISTER**

Madam Speaker, while I accept that there is a big workload, I make the point that the commission said:

*We have since been told four times that the statement would be available.*

With that result, will you stand beside your minister until this Royal Commission is completed?

**ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, as I have explained, this is simply about the workload. It is not about a lack of cooperation on behalf of the minister. It is simply about the workload. The minister is doing this with legal assistance. The Northern Territory Government will provide legal representation to current and former employees and ministers of the Northern Territory to participate in the Royal Commission. There are more than 70 people coming before the Royal Commission.

This is simply a workload question, nothing more, nothing less. There is nothing sinister here. We are cooperating as fully as we can with the pressures we have to be able to help the Royal Commission. I thank the staff of the public service and the public servants who are doing all this work. They are doing a tremendous amount of work under difficult circumstances and time pressures.

**Crime Wave in the Northern Territory**

**Mrs FINOCCHIARO to ATTORNEY-GENERAL and JUSTICE**

Last night *A Current Affair* presented a devastating account of the crime wave your Chief Minister dismissed yesterday as 'a spate of crime in December and January'. A businessman, Jason Hanna, said on national TV, 'It has never been this bad'. Now the tourism industry is facing a looming and catastrophic downturn because the Territory's crime story has gone global.

Crime is destroying people's lives and livelihoods. When will you stop playing politics on this and immediately make the tough decisions necessary to fix this crime crisis?

**ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, it is quite interesting that the Member for Spillett raises this issue as though to blame the government for the last eight months. The two most violent years in the Northern Territory's history were under the CLP. To quote the Police Commissioner's information, this youth crime spike has been rising by 20% over the last two years.

We acknowledge that Territorians have the right to feel safe at home, at work and in their communities. Our government shares that frustration; we are angry. We live in these communities, from Central Australia, through the Barkly region and into Arnhem Land in the Top End, and we understand that frustration on a daily basis.

Coming into government we knew our job would be tough. We knew we had to deal with the acute end here and now, as well as the mess the CLP government left us. It failed to provide police with the resources they need to do their jobs, and cut funding from youth services and non-government organisations that provide resources to the most vulnerable. It cut \$4m from youth services in Palmerston.

While we are speaking about cuts, when school funds were so horrifically cut—and I acknowledge the Minister for Education and the commitment she is putting into education. When those cuts happened, do you know what was cut? It was the support and wraparound services that got our most vulnerable kids to school and made it possible for them to learn.

This government is willing to tackle this issue. We are willing to put in place long-term generational change. Not only do we have historic youth justice reforms and an \$18m package being led by someone—I do not believe we have had a minister more capable in this space. I acknowledge the work she has done. There are 25 youth workers taking intensive training here and now. We have come to deal with this issue. We are

planning for long-term change and are dealing with the urgent issues. We have demonstrated this with legislation introduced into the House this morning.

We will tackle the issue of alcohol. Alcohol is at the heart of family and domestic violence and the crime in our community. We need to look into alcohol. We need to have an open conversation with industry, community and health professionals about what we can do. We will implement the Banned Drinker Register, something the CLP scrapped overnight. The police said it was one of the best tools they had for tackling crime.

The Member for Spillett is welcome to ask these questions because we will continue to outline what this government is doing now and for long-term changes in the Northern Territory.

### **Central Arnhem Highway**

#### **Mr GUYULA to MINISTER for INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING and LOGISTICS**

The Central Arnhem Highway is a major connective road for my electorate and the Arnhem electorate. Nhulunbuy, Yirrkala, Numbulwar homelands, (inaudible) homelands, Ramingining and Milingimbi are dependent on this road enterprise, governance and relational connectivity to essential infrastructure. With particular interest in the Nhulunbuy to Ramingining end of the road, what points are expected to be made available in future to progress the Central Arnhem Highway so our region can be further informed of relational and economic development?

#### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I thank the Member for Nhulunbuy for his question. It is an excellent question in regard to road infrastructure. Investment in roads across the Northern Territory delivers important transport corridors and creates new economic avenues. There is no doubt that we want to see sound investments in roads across the Northern Territory.

We have one of the greatest unsealed networks of roads infrastructure in this country, which creates a big challenge. We have some horrendous road conditions in the Northern Territory which makes life difficult for people in the bush. We need to invest more in roads.

Part of the work we are doing as a new government is making sure we target road investment as strategically as possible through our economic summit process and 10-year infrastructure plan. We will be overlaying our infrastructure plan with a logistics master plan. Part of that is looking at targeting road upgrades to find sections that need to be sealed and where the greatest priority lies. Arnhem Highway is a road we must look at and continue to work on.

We have other challenging roads. The Member for Stuart is very passionate about Tanami Road, which is an important road. The Member for Daly is one of the strongest advocates for roads infrastructure. He brings these issues forward with his constituents. It is an important matter.

Unfortunately the reality is that roads do not come cheaply. To seal small sections of roads can cost in the millions. We need to prioritise the expenditure to maximise the return. Roads are a good investment, particularly when it comes to jobs in the civil construction sector. It ensures we are supporting local jobs.

Across the Territory we are seeing more communities developing and building a capacity to do more works in that space. That is something we want to see, and another reason this 10-year infrastructure plan is important. It is about helping people look at the opportunities ahead and see where the priorities are. It helps when it comes to lobbying the Commonwealth. That is an important player we need to bring to the table since we have a federal government committed to a northern Australian development agenda. We need to see what infrastructure investments they are willing to make in the north. As Infrastructure minister I will be doing everything I can to pursue that.

### **Economic Outlook**

#### **Mrs LAMBLEY to CHIEF MINISTER**

Today we heard that approximately 800 INPEX workers have been sacked. The profound economic implications of this will be felt across the entire width and breadth of the Northern Territory. Rather than

blame the previous government for what it may or may not have done, please tell Territorians exactly what you will do about the rather tough economic outlook for the entire Northern Territory.

**ANSWER**

We got elected with a plan for jobs for Territorians, which was very important because there was an absence of a plan for the INPEX construction cliff that we knew was coming.

At the moment there is a commercial dispute between Laing O'Rourke and Kawasaki Heavy Industries. While this is not part of the construction cliff, winding down and the ordinarily planned demobilisation you might have, it is a reminder of the issues we will face this year. We are very sympathetic to the fact that Territorians want jobs. We need them to have a job and stay in the Territory. That is why we had the plan to get money flowing locally again.

It is really important we do everything we can to ensure there is money available for work, and that we break it up as much as possible to ensure it gets to as many Territorians as possible. We have the Immediate Works Stimulus Package between the community groups, steel manufacturers, urban public housing repairs and maintenance, remote public housing repairs and maintenance, the Room to Breathe program and Buy Local principles to ensure locals have a better crack at the \$3bn we spend a year on work in the NT.

There are a lot of things we are doing to ensure there is work for Territorians. There is a plan in place for knowing what is coming at the end of this construction cliff. There is a plan in place. What is happening at the moment is—and we feel for the workers involved—a reminder of this. We have contacted the companies involved and reminded them of the local participation plan. Throughout this dispute, we do not want them to lose sight of the priorities of locals, and we want to ensure we minimise the impact on individuals as much as possible. The Northern Territory Government stands resolutely in providing its support wherever it can.

We sent a strong message to the companies that they need to be mindful. We have been advised that, as would happen in a plan for demobilisation, as much work as possible has been sought on projects locally to ensure locals can stay in employment while this commercial dispute is being resolved.

It is a very important reminder about what we will go through this year. While many businesses describe 2016 as the worst year they had, in some respects that was a prelude to the difficulties we will face this year with the wind down of INPEX. This is why it was so important that we took this plan to the election to get money flowing locally. We also worked on providing confidence and certainty, which we are doing through the economic summits process.

The Treasurer just spoke about the 10-year infrastructure plan to ensure there is certainty about where government is going and where money is going so the private sector can plan accordingly for projects and investments. We need confidence and certainty in the NT on where we are going.

**Banana Freckle Eradication Program**

**Mr WOOD to MINISTER for PRIMARY INDUSTRY and RESOURCES**

Many Territorians lost their bananas because of the Banana Freckle Eradication Program. We are now in the sentinel stage of the Banana Freckle program. Can you say if there have been any discoveries of Banana Freckle in the new banana plantings? What is the stage after the sentinel stage is completed?

**ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, this is important, and has been raised with me many times. As a local member with the Rapid Creek Market in my electorate, it has been raised constantly by certain people. We are in a sentinel phase, and biosecurity is at the forefront of this government's efforts. We have strong biosecurity measures in place. We have problems like the Banana Freckle, the melon virus and Mottle Mosaic Virus.

We are in the sentinel phase. Right now we have phase three of the program, in which disease free plants have progressively been introduced into the red zone to provide evidence over a 12-month period, and the NT is free of Banana Freckle. There have been over 7400 plants with 3000 selected across the red zone, and approximately 3400 in Darwin and the rural areas of Milikapiti, Batchelor, Rum Jungle, Dundee Beach, Ramingining, Nauiyu and Daly River.

The red zones have sentinel banana plants in the ground, and final numbers were determined on 31 January. We are hoping and praying we do not find any more Banana Freckle. At the moment there is none; however, through the Wet Season we will continue to monitor this important biosecurity issue for Territorians.

### **Political Donations Inquiry**

#### **Mr HIGGINS to CHIEF MINISTER**

You have denied acting inappropriately in agreeing to policies requested by the AHA. At the same time the Labor Party received a donation from someone closely associated with the AHA.

Once your anti-discrimination commission is established, will it be able to investigate this matter? What powers will the commission have to establish whether or not you were aware of the donation made to the Labor Party? What would the penalties be if you were found, as the Labor leader, to have made commitments to the AHA in exchange for donations?

#### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I think the Leader of the Opposition meant the anti-corruption commission, not the anti-discrimination commission. We want there to be public confidence in the decisions that governments make. That is why we are doing two things in this space, not just one. We will establish an independent anti-corruption commission, and we are working through all the legislation regarding that at the moment.

Unlike the previous government, we contributed to the process led by Brian Martin for the development of an anti-corruption commission. We responded formally, as a government, to those recommendations. We accepted 50 of the 52 recommendations. We had a formal submission and provided a formal response.

We have also started an inquiry into political donations in the Northern Territory. Those are the two things happening to make sure there is public confidence in the government's decisions. The Opposition Leader will be able to contribute during this process, and I hope the CLP does because to date it has not. The CLP did not provide a submission to the inquiry into the establishment of an ICAC and did not formally respond to the recommendations that came out of that inquiry. We did. I think it is beyond time that the CLP responds.

The donation you referenced, which the party secretary can provide information on, happened in August. That is outside the period that would normally be for disclosure, if that makes sense. The party secretary has provided advanced disclosure upon request; the CLP has not. The CLP is lacking in this space and has not made its letter available. We made ours available and were happy to be up front about it. We circulated that last year. The CLP has not made its letter available and has not disclosed its donations.

We are being open and transparent, and the CLP is still failing the community standards test. It is about time you started trying to meet that test, Leader of the Opposition. We are being open, transparent and up front. We are going through a political donations inquiry. We are establishing an anti-corruption commission, which you did not.

As always, the CLP members lead with their chin on these things. I assure you, we believe very strongly that the public should have confidence in the decisions made by government, and we are making decisions in the public's interest. That is what our government is doing. We will have a permanent anti-corruption commission in place beyond this term and future terms because this is a strong value on our side, not just something we pay lip service to.

### **Alcohol Floor Price Policy**

#### **Mrs FINOCCHIARO to MINISTER for HEALTH**

Prior to the election the Chief Minister, as the then Leader of the Opposition, stated to the People's Alcohol Action Coalition and the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education that the Labor Party was unequivocally opposed to the introduction of a floor price for alcohol.

Nonetheless, you recently stated publicly that you were willing to look at a minimum alcohol price as part of your alcohol policy review. When your hastily announced alcohol policy review is presented with dozens of studies that show that floor prices reduce alcohol harm, will you scrap this Labor Party policy?

**ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I look forward to the CLP opposition providing a submission to that alcohol policy review. This is an important chance for the Northern Territory community to come together with industry and Health to have their say, and ensure the key facets of alcohol policy complement the determination to have a safer Territory. We need to have everyone at the table so we can have long-term plans put in place. We need to have evidence-based policy initiatives that reduce the alcohol-fuelled crime and antisocial behaviour seen every day in our community ...

**Members** interjecting.

**Ms FYLES:** I pick up on the interjections from those opposite. We, as a government, are willing to tackle this. I thank the Chief Minister and all my colleagues who have tasked me with this opportunity to have an independent panel look at alcohol policies and legislation, and report to government so we can have a cohesive plan. Since I have been given the privilege of being the Minister for Health and the Attorney-General, I have found that things have been done in isolation. We saw the CLP government change licensing laws to a Director-General approach that did not allow community involvement.

We need to ensure we have strong licensing that backs up strong health policies. When the cost of alcohol in the community creeps towards \$0.75bn—yes, \$0.75bn is where the cost of alcohol-related harm is creeping towards in our community—we need to have strong plans.

Regarding the question about floor price and volumetric tax, we have held a consistent position—something those on the other side cannot get a handle on—that we oppose a floor price. We believe the volumetric tax, which is in the federal domain, is the appropriate process. We will be a part of a national conversation if that happens.

We stick by our policy, but we need to look at it and have a cohesive approach towards alcohol policy. We need that expert panel. The draft terms of reference are out now with the community, seeking feedback. I know from other terms of reference that have been drafted and consulted on, that this will ensure we get stronger terms of reference. Once we have those terms of reference right, we will then consult and work with stakeholders, police and those people who feel the effects every day.

Madam Speaker, if we want to have a consistent and cohesive approach, then we need to look at everything. Our policy is quite clear in terms of floor price, but we need to look at every measure.

**Members** interjecting.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms FYLES:** If you want to have a road map for alcohol policy going forward we need to listen to the evidence and the experts. I look forward to receiving that submission from the CLP because they have been vocal in here.

### **Milingimbi Airstrip**

**Mr GUYULA to MINISTER for INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING and LOGISTICS**

Since last year Airnorth has not been able to operate daily services to Milingimbi. I am told that this has occurred because the Embraer EMB 120 Brasilia airplane used for this service has now been deemed too large for the current airstrip by CASA. For the service to be reinstated the airstrip must be widened by five metres. Are there any plans by the government to fulfil this need?

**ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for his question. I will get back to you with the details about that situation. Last year it was a real concern when CASA said there were issues with landing the aircraft there. A great deal of work happened at that point, including sitting down with CASA and the airline to make sure

they worked through the matter. I believe an alternative aircraft had been arranged at that time to go there; however, there were questions about aircraft suitability and the width of the landing strip.

Remote access by plane is extremely important to your electorate. I was at Gunbalanya and was speaking to some of the board from ALPA. I was receiving very strong advocacy from those gentlemen.

I will get you an update straight after Question Time about where that matter is at because I do not have the latest advice in front of me. When it was raised last year we made sure we had the parties sitting at the table and working through it. The most important thing was making sure air services were continuing. Thank you, Member for Nhulunbuy.

### **Youth Services in Alice Springs**

#### **Mrs LAMBLEY to MINISTER for TERRITORY FAMILIES**

The juvenile justice package announced over a month ago, on 8 February 2017, included a spending of approximately \$18m per annum. Exactly how much of this will go to Alice Springs youth services? When will your government honour its promise of providing night time youth services in Alice Springs?

#### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I am very proud to be the minister responsible for rolling out such an historic package. It was great to do the first lot of training this morning for the new youth justice officers. We are in the middle of a recruitment process for the diversion officers; 16 out of 52 will be based in Alice Springs.

We are also currently looking at a safe house accommodation model for Alice Springs and Palmerston to ensure there are a range of options for kids who are experiencing homelessness and need extra support. We are also going through a process regarding after-hours activities, which is something very dear to the hearts of people in Alice Springs since services were cut in the 2012 mini-budget; we are doing a lot of work towards coordinating that.

We managed to extend the funding on the after-hours night service, which is run by Congress and council. I thank both of them for being very patient with the extension of that contract. We have extended that until September because feedback from the council and Congress is that it is a great service. They are picking kids up, but they really have nowhere to go to work with them. We need an after-hours youth service where people can work with our most vulnerable children.

We need to ensure existing services are strengthened, and that we have a range of case management services that are long-term and sustainable. What we know from the NGO sector, particularly the youth sector, is that they have 12-month contracts, which has made it very difficult to recruit staff. At the Gap Youth Centre they have had 12-month contracts for a very long time, and I have had multiple conversations with the CEO about how over the last four years it has been very hard for them to recruit and retain school staff.

One of the things we saw this morning at the training is that working with young people is specialist work. It was really interesting to hear information regarding neuroplasticity when working with kids who have grown up in a traumatic household.

**Mrs LAMBLEY:** Madam Speaker, a point of order. Standing Order 110: relevance. My question was, when will these night-time services be provided?

**Mrs WAKEFIELD:** We need to look at five-year contracts because we need a skilled workforce; that is what long-term contracts will enable us to do. There is certainty of this money; it is not a quick cash splash. This is about a long-term systemic change to our youth services.

**Mrs LAMBLEY:** Madam Speaker, a point of order! Ten seconds to go; when?

**Ms WAKEFIELD:** We will have a further announcement as part of the budget process.

## Liquor Act Review

### Mr WOOD to ATTORNEY-GENERAL and JUSTICE

You said you will have a review into liquor laws in the Northern Territory, but you also just said you will not have a floor price. You have told the AHA you will not change Sunday trading and there will be no change to closing times; in other words there will be no chance of discussing lockout laws. You have already agreed to a 400m<sup>2</sup> maximum size for bottle shops. Minister, how can you have a review of the *Liquor Act* if the government has already decided what it will and will not accept?

### ANSWER

Madam Speaker, we have issued the draft terms of reference for this alcohol review—a review that has not been seen before in the Northern Territory—which will bring together evidence and experts across industry, community and the health sector. When those terms of reference are issued, after we consult with the community, we will know what the community wants us to look at. The terms of reference will be broad.

Regarding the question of what is in and what is out, everything is on the table when looking at what is best for the Northern Territory. We are, however, focusing on takeaway alcohol, which is the key to so many issues across our communities.

With regard to lock-out laws, we believe the entertainment precinct with the liquor accord, is fine. With everything else, even though we have a policy position now, we are willing to look at the evidence from this panel and this review. We need to ensure we have the opportunity to look at the impact and harm in our community from alcohol holistically. We need to have an evidence-based approach going forward.

Takeaway alcohol and the harm from that is one of the biggest issues the Northern Territory faces. It is one of the biggest social challenges we have in the Northern Territory. I am looking forward to having an evidence-based approach.

As I outlined in responding to earlier questions, some aspects of this are about licensing and other areas are a health perspective. There are also crime, antisocial behaviour and police pick-up aspects. It is across government and across community. We need to ensure that policies and legislation work together so we can respond and tackle this issue. We have over 530 alcohol licences across the Northern Territory, with one takeaway licence for every 353 adult Territorians. In other jurisdictions, such as California, they limit it to one for every 2500 people ...

**Mr WOOD:** A point of order, Madam Speaker! Relevance. The question is, if you have a review and you have already made promises to the AHA, will that not clash with the recommendations of a review of alcohol?

**Madam SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member for Nelson. Minister, you have the call.

**Ms FYLES:** What I am trying to say to the members opposite is that we will have a review, and we will consider the recommendations of that review. I will not pre-empt the review. We are seeking feedback from the community on the draft terms of reference that have been released. We will then have robust terms of reference to have an evidence-based approach, with experts leading that.

Then, as a government, we will consider everything on the table on how we can strengthen licensing and put policies in place to make the Northern Territory safer. When we look at the alcohol statistics—from family and domestic violence through to antisocial behaviour and hospitals—it is a huge issue.

**Mr Wood:** Will you scrap Sunday trading?

**Ms FYLES:** I would be very reluctant to scrap Sunday trading. It is something this government has strengthened. I would be very surprised if a review came back and said we should scrap Sunday trading.

**Mr Wood:** No, you have already made a promise.

**Ms FYLES:** We have an evidence-led approach to alcohol, Madam Speaker.

## Job Creation Promise

### Mr HIGGINS to CHIEF MINISTER

On 3 February last year you promised that your government would create 12 000 to 14 000 jobs each year. You have been in government for seven months. Where are the 7000 jobs you should have created by now? How are you going in meeting that target?

### ANSWER

Madam Speaker, we said we would create and support jobs in the Northern Territory because that is what Territorians need. We said we had a clear plan to deliver jobs for Territorians. As I explained then and am happy to explain now, there is a very clear formula for the jobs that are driven by infrastructure investments. That is why we have made decisions driven by infrastructure investment.

That is why we made the decision to fast-track \$120m of infrastructure works. That is why we put money into stimulus programs, the immediate works package, the urban repairs and maintenance of public housing, remote repairs and maintenance, the Room to Breathe program, steel manufacturers, the remote health clinics and significant stimulus packages. We also made those changes to strengthen Buy Local to ensure that more of the \$3bn the government spends a year goes to locals who have a better and fairer crack at it. We want to ensure we are maximising opportunities for locals to get jobs.

That is our clear plan to create and support those 12 000 to 14 000 jobs. This is driven by careful spending of government money, taxpayers' money, and ensuring locals get a better crack at it when they go for the work government puts out there. It is a very clear plan to get money flowing locally again.

The next part of that plan is providing certainty and creating confidence. We are doing this through the economic summits process, which will lead to long-term plans for the Northern Territory. The private sector can look at it and gear up the tender for projects along the way, or make its own investment decisions off the back of knowing what government will do, instead of discovering it year to year in thought bubbles as we saw from the CLP in the last term.

The very clear jobs plan from us, as the Labor Party in opposition, that we are now delivering in government, is to get money flowing locally, provide confidence and provide certainty. That is how we create and support 12 000 to 14 000 jobs.

**Mrs FINOCCHIARO:** A point of order, Madam Speaker! Relevance. My colleague asked a very specific question. Has the government reached its target of creating 7000 new jobs?

**Madam SPEAKER:** Thank you. Chief Minister, you have time to answer.

**Mr GUNNER:** That is a very clear formula to work out how many jobs are created from infrastructure investment. We are putting that plan in place. We are creating jobs for Territorians. We are doing everything we can to provide the confidence and certainty that was sadly missing during the last four years of government in which the CLP put itself ahead of Territorians. It put chaos and internal fights ahead of a plan to get Territorians into work.

**Mr HIGGINS:** Point of order, Madam Speaker: Standing Order 110. My question was very specific. Out of the jobs that were supposed to be created, how many have been created? Are you on target? If you are basing this on science and evidence then you have some sort of targets you are working towards. You have a plan, so tell us.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Chief Minister, you have the call.

**Mr GUNNER:** I have been very specific in my response. I have talked about the exact programs we are doing to create and support those jobs in the Territory. It is a plan that was sadly missing during the last four years of the CLP.

We have come into a very difficult year ...

**Madam SPEAKER:** Chief Minister, your time has expired.

### **Ice Treatment Funding**

#### **Mrs FINOCCHIARO to MINISTER for HEALTH**

The evidence from treatment providers such as Banyan House establishes that we are in the midst of an ice epidemic in the Territory. Ice abuse is a major driver of crime, with at least 90% of youth offenders abusing the drug. Treatment centres like Banyan House are struggling to cope with the increase in demand for their services. The best the government can muster is \$20 000 for alcohol and other drugs youth grants, which are likely funded by the Commonwealth anyway. Minister, what is your government doing to deal with the ice epidemic in the Territory? What is it doing to help providers like Banyan House continue their important work?

#### **ANSWER**

There are a couple of components in answering this question. The government acknowledges ice is a serious challenge across Australia. It believes all Territorians are entitled to access services that will provide them with support to take back control of their lives.

In terms of the specific questions regarding Banyan House, it is disappointing that recently it had a funding cut from the federal government through the Primary Health Network. I have written to my federal counterpart asking for further information regarding that. It was a decision made within the Primary Health Network regarding funding and providing services.

In the NT we are implementing the NT Ice Action Plan to ensure we have access to rehabilitation services across the Northern Territory. We had the select committee into ice, which reported to the House in November 2015. The Ice Action Plan was launched by the previous government, and we acknowledge the efforts in that space, as well as the importance of the non-government sector, health professionals and the community. We have continued to build on that work.

The plan contains a whole of government approach and agency-specific activities to reduce supply and demand, as well as reduce harms from ice. We all remember the legislative changes that were made in the House. We are providing stability to non-government services by allowing them to have a five-year funding agreement. There is a mix of residential rehabilitation and outpatient services. We have a very unique environment in the Northern Territory, in which we need to deliver services.

There are education resources for schools, which have been developed to assist school staff and parents to talk to young people about the harms of drug abuse. We have been focused on community education, increasing the understanding of the effects of drug use and targeting those most at risk. We are working to improve access to telephone information, counselling and follow-up services.

It is not just something being driven from within the Department of Health; the Department of Education is also involved. Additional funding has been allocated nationally by the Australian Government in response to the National Ice Task Force final report. The Northern Territory Primary Health Network has provided the funding to commission alcohol and other drug services to build capacity in the Northern Territory.

There is a figure of \$9.7m allocated over a three-year period. There is a lot of work in this space. We acknowledge this is a horrendous issue across the Northern Territory and Australia, and we will continue to work in this space.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Minister your time has expired.

### **Aboriginal Housing NT**

#### **Mr GUYULA to MINISTER for HOUSING and COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

How is the government incorporating the independent Indigenous housing advocacy group, Aboriginal Housing NT, into its decision-making on Indigenous housing?

#### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, it was an honour to meet with the peak body representing Aboriginal housing on Monday. Their questions were very pertinent. One question was about how this government plans on incorporating

their advice and advocacy. We are serious about good advocacy, commentary on our policy and open and transparent processes. I said to the group at the meeting that we are keen to continue that group.

One of their concerns was that we could be like the previous CLP government and flip flop with reactionary politics and create a new body. I assured them we are not like that. We value their advocacy. It is a good cross-section between remote communities, homelands and outstations.

They are requesting the funds for another meeting, and we will be looking closely at that in support of their continuation. They asked if they would be the peak body to guide us and make commentary on our policies for remote Indigenous housing. I agreed with that. They are interested in individual models which reflect the government's location-based approach on design and innovation for Indigenous housing.

There was an interesting discussion about the Laynhapuy homelands regarding construction and innovation in homeland housing. They are interested in new housing on homelands and our government co-founding opportunities.

Member for Nhulunbuy, they are completely in the sight of government. We will continue to meet, take advice and develop our local decision-making principles. It was great to hear the Chief Minister talk in the House at these sittings about how that does not just relate to housing. We have been working on that extensively in the Room to Breathe package. It talks about education, health, justice and local government.

I was honoured to meet with that group. That was the second meeting as a new minister in this portfolio. I look forward to the continuation of that. I am sure you would also accept an invitation. It would be great to sit with you and discuss those important matters on advocacy and policy with the new Michael Gunner Labor government.

### **Alcohol Policy – TBLs**

#### **Mrs LAMBLEY to MINISTER for HEALTH**

My question is in regard to alcohol policy. The temporary beat locations in Alice Springs have been the most outstanding strategy in the last 20 years for reducing alcohol consumption in our community. If the alcohol review comes out to say—and I am confident it will—that TBLs, or coppers standing outside liquor outlets in Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek and wherever else, are part of the most successful strategy we have seen, will you keep the TBLs in place and honour your commitment to an evidence-based approach?

#### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I acknowledge the compliments to that policy and program, which was rolled out by the previous Labor government. We have made it clear in this House that the TBLs, or POSIs as they are now known, are a resource for police to use as they see fit.

We need to provide police with resources, such as the number of police officers—but this policy will stay in place under Labor. We are working efficiently, and I look forward to bringing legislation to the House in May regarding the Banned Drinker Register. It is a simple, effective tool. Police said it was one of the most effective tools they had in fighting alcohol-related behaviour.

We will have a range of programs, policies and legislation which will support tackling the issue of alcohol-related harm. I can assure the member opposite that we are working on bringing back the BDR by 1 September, and I will be introducing legislation to the parliament in May.

Police will still have the TBLs, or POSIs, as they are police resources that should be utilised by police, not by politicians in Darwin. We very much support them, but we believe the BDR was an important measure that was scrapped by the previous government. We are bringing it back with the support of the community. Police will still have the resource of TBLs to use where and when they see fit.

### **Mining Rehabilitation Funds**

#### **Mr WOOD to MINISTER for PRIMARY INDUSTRY and RESOURCES**

The ABC reported on 21 February that \$36m had been collected by the government under the 1% levy scheme to clean up legacy mines. It was also reported that only one-third of that money had gone into the

Mining Remediation Fund, while \$6m went into the central revenue account and \$18m into your department's coffers.

Is the money that is supposed to be used for rehabilitation being used for rehabilitation, or is it being syphoned off elsewhere?

**ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I thank the Member for Nelson for that very important question. We have an issue in the Northern Territory, an unfunded liability across the NT, as a result of the legacy aspects of mining operations in the past. The legacy mine sites represent both a safety and environmental hazard, which we continue to work on. We have inherited the remediation fund as it currently exists.

As you are aware, Member for Nelson, the 2013 *Mining Management Act* was amended to introduce a mining remediation levy on authorised mining operators. The levy was set at 1% of the value of rehabilitation securities held by the department on four authorised sites, as of 1 July last year. The *Mining Management Act* requires that a minimum 33% of the revenue generated from the levy be paid into the Mining Remediation Fund. The report was correct; we provided that information to the media. We inherited this process.

I want to take this opportunity to pay my thanks to the Legacy Mines Unit for its work. It does an outstanding job using the latest technology. I had the pleasure of almost flying a drone; they would not let me fly it, but I got to see one being flown. That is not only awesome because it uses the latest available technology, but it also makes things more efficient and safer for workers. It also has the ability to access areas we could not access before. It takes a drone 15 minutes of flying, with real-time footage, to access the mine. It is fantastic technology.

Coming into government we have been consultative; we have spoken to industry and stakeholders who have raised many questions about the remediation levy and how much is being forwarded to the Mining Remediation Fund for its intended purpose. I can assure the Member for Nelson that, as an open and transparent government, we are considering reforms to ensure the mining remediation levy is used for its intended purpose.

**Public Service Cuts**

**Mr HIGGINS to MINISTER for PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT**

According to the Commissioner for Public Employment, programs will be cut to achieve the government's efficiency and duplication savings, quoted by the Chief Minister prior to the election to be in the order of \$184m. Minister, which programs will be cut? When will they be cut? How many public servants will lose their jobs so you can achieve your savings targets?

**ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, Territorians expect the government to manage budgets responsibly, and ensure they suit the economic climate while continuing to deliver services for Territorians. As part of the budget development process we have requested that all government agencies look at what savings they can make. All Territorians want a public service that is operating efficiently and cuts waste, duplication inefficiencies and in effective programs; I think you agree, Leader of the Opposition.

I acknowledge the hard-working public servants in the Northern Territory and the essential work they perform. The government will also deliver on its promise to invest in frontline staff, such as teachers, police and nurses. We will also invest considerably in infrastructure.

Leader of the Opposition, you would know we inherited a significant deficit and challenging budget conditions from the previous government, resulting from the sale of public assets, such as the buses, TIO and the port. Utilities sectors were being lined up next. Anyway, you do not like to speak about the very contemporary past.

There will be a very important target investment from this government, but there will be no sackings. Any reduction in public sector numbers will be found by chief executives of agencies through natural voluntary redundancies. We have made that very clear.

You have scooped the bottom of the barrel. You have come to the last question and a bit of mischief. You can see an open and transparent government, as opposed to the last outfit that you let ride roughshod over Territory public servants for four years, ex-minister.

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