

## CONTENTS

Don Dale Settlements.....	267
Council on Federal Financial Relations – Treasurer’s Message .....	267
INPEX Dispute.....	268
Education and Local Jobs .....	269
Immediate Works Stimulus Package.....	270
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION.....	270
Immediate Works Stimulus Package.....	270
Solar SETuP.....	271
Agriculture and Farming – NT Opportunities .....	271
VISITOR .....	272
Corey Charleston.....	272
Jobs Plan.....	272
Economic Summits and Jobs .....	273
Crime in Alice Springs .....	274
Geoscience Exploration Seminar .....	274
Youth Justice – Systematic Issues at Don Dale .....	275
Protecting Darwin Harbour .....	276
Budget Cuts.....	277
National Youth Week.....	277
Youth Justice - Don Dale New Facility .....	278

[Editor's Note: Earlier this day the Leader of Government Business advised that the Minister for Housing and Community Development would be absent during Question Time.]

### **Don Dale Settlements**

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

This week the Supreme Court awarded \$53 000 to four teenagers who were detained at Don Dale. Other actions are currently pending, including a class action brought by Maurice Blackburn which could include as many as 18 000 group members.

Will the government consider legislation that would require the recipients of civil awards or settlements, such as former Don Dale detainees, first satisfying any outstanding victims' levies, fines or civil judgments before receiving a cash payout?

#### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, as stated in the House and to local media, the Northern Territory Government acknowledges the findings handed down by Justice Kelly in regard to four of the Don Dale detainees. The youth detention and justice system in the Northern Territory was at a point of crisis. The Commonwealth Royal Commission is in place, as well as a new government with an experienced minister at the helm, to put forward youth justice reforms so there is a long-term approach to this.

This government will always put victims first. In terms of crime and community safety, victims must always be at the heart of decision-making. In terms of the settlement negotiations, the Northern Territory Government will now consider legal advice in relation to this specific decision. We must note this case is ongoing. The question of cost remains before the court. It is important we do not provide too much comment. The member raised the Maurice Blackburn class action, which the proceedings are—we will be defending those decisions with the appropriate legal advice.

This is a complex issue. We have national attention with a Royal Commission. We have a lot of work ahead of us. We need to make sure we see reforms, not only in a space of youth detention and justice, so we have a rehabilitative approach that stops people from committing crimes. We need to work on victims of crime. This was a space left unfilled by the previous government.

There was a review into victims of crime under the previous CLP administration. That review had a lot of work put into it. The Crime Victims Advisory Committee told the CLP government to review the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act*, but that was never followed through. This government acknowledges victims of crime. We are committed to working in that space. We just made an annual investment of \$450 000 to victim conferencing as part of the Jesuit Social Services. It is something I will be focusing on ...

**Mrs FINOCCHIARO:** A point of order, Madam Speaker! My question was very specific: will the government bring legislation to the House so people who are awarded settlement or court payments must first pay their debt to society before receiving the remaining sum?

**Madam SPEAKER:** Thank you, Deputy Opposition Leader. Attorney-General, you have the call.

**Ms FYLES:** Regarding victims of crime and payments, the courts make a judgment at the point of sentencing. This is a unique situation. This government is focusing on putting victims of crime first and foremost through implementing changes the CLP government failed to make.

### **Council on Federal Financial Relations – Treasurer's Message**

#### **Mr SIEVERS to CHIEF MINISTER**

The Treasurer is on her way to the Council on Federal Financial Relations. Can you tell us what message the Treasurer will be delivering to Canberra?

#### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I thank the Member for Brennan for his question. The Treasurer will be following in a great line of Territory Treasurers. She will go to Canberra and say we need our fair share in the Territory. We need our fair share from the Commonwealth so we can create jobs, invest in kids and deliver services

to people who need them in the bush. The Territory has remote communities with difficult needs, and it is expensive to deliver services for the Territory in those remote areas.

The Council of Federal Financial Relations—a fancy name for the Treasurers' get-together in Canberra—brings together the Commonwealth Treasurer and those of every state and territory. Our Treasurer is on her way to Canberra for this meeting, and she will fight for our fair share of Commonwealth funding. Our government is concerned about the shrinking national pool of GST revenue. This reduction affects the Territory more than any other jurisdiction due to 70% of the Territory's revenue coming from the Commonwealth; GST is 50%, and 20% is tied Commonwealth payments. We are very dependent on our relationship with Canberra and the Treasurer, and those GST receipts.

The GST is no longer delivering the level of growth the states and territories require for service delivery. That is one of the reasons why the Treasurer will be pushing for broader taxation reform. The NT simply cannot afford a reduction in the GST. We already have to climb a considerable fiscal mountain. We knew at the last Territory election, with the pre-election fiscal outlook, that the CLP had left a bad set of budget books. We know we have to do everything, as a Territory government, to get the economy back on track and support jobs.

We are doing this with a \$22m stimulus package. We have the bigger, better Home Improvement Scheme, the \$17bn infrastructure package, the \$120m worth of fast-tracked works, the stamp duty concessions for first home buyers and our proudly pro-Territory Buy Local jobs policy. But we know we have a lot to do, and there is only so much we can do as a Territory government. We need our fair share of GST to do it.

The Treasurer will be fighting hard, on behalf of all Territorians, with the federal Treasurer to make sure we get the money we need to deliver for the needs of Territorians. It will be a very important conversation between our Treasurer and the Commonwealth Treasurer. We will work very hard to have a constructive, productive relationship with the Commonwealth government because the Territory depends on it.

### **INPEX Dispute**

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

The CFMEU's Michael Ravbar has described your government's \$200 000 INPEX lifeline as tokenism. He also said:

*The Gunner government has proven that they just aren't up for the job. It's an absolute embarrassment and proves that Gunner is a weak and lacklustre leader with no idea how to fix important issues. The true test for any strong leader when they are in government is how they manage and resolve difficult and important issues. It is obvious that Gunner has failed the test miserably. Instead of wasting \$200 000 on a Band-Aid fix that won't achieve a single outcome ...*

Why have you applied a Band-Aid solution to the issues facing Ichthys, which is haemorrhaging jobs? What have you done to bring key parties together to find a resolution?

#### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question because it is important, and it goes to the economic context we have in the Territory at the moment about creating and supporting jobs for Territorians.

As Chief Minister I have spoken to the companies involved. I have stressed to them the need for certainty for the Territory, the project and jobs. I have phoned the companies and spoken to them directly. To help the workers at this time, we have put together a training package to broaden and deepen their CVs to ensure they are capable of taking advantage of all the job opportunities that exist in the Northern Territory. We want to keep them here and in jobs.

The Ichthys project, whilst it is winding down its construction phase now, will be here for 40-plus years. There will be ongoing jobs on site. Having spoken to the workers directly—I thank the CFMEU for the support they have given me and the workers I have spoken with. They want this program and jobs on site. They see the ongoing operational jobs there and they want them. They see this package as a crucial way of making sure they have the skills they need to have ongoing jobs on that site.

We are in the middle of a commercial dispute between Kawasaki Heavy Industries and Laing O'Rourke. It concerns JKC and INPEX; they want certainty for this project. The best placed people to pick those tools up on site and go back to work are the locals who put them down, through no fault of their own. We have stressed to the companies involved that we want locals prioritised when that work commences again. The project is not finished; those tanks still need to be built. The jobs and tools are still there and the best people to use those tools are locals. I have sent that message very clearly and directly to the companies involved, JKC and INPEX.

We will support those workers to broaden and deepen their CVs. We are also having conversations to ensure they get priority for those jobs and finishing the project for the Territory. This is a massive project; the largest investment Japan has made outside its shores is here in Darwin. It is a fantastic project. It has done wonderful things for the Northern Territory.

We are now preparing for the winding down of the Icthus construction phase. This is work the CLP did not do. It is a plan the CLP failed to have. We got to the last election and the CLP had spent everything. It left a budget that was bare. That was obvious in the pre-election fiscal outlook. The CLP had no plan for these four years because there is a cost to chaos. We, as a Labor government, have to make sure that Territorians are not the ones who pay for it.

### **Education and Local Jobs**

#### **Mrs WORDEN to MINISTER for EDUCATION**

Last week I was really pleased to hear you deliver your education statement. I am very interested to know how your plan for education will support local jobs and a quality education workforce.

#### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, supporting all members of the community to fully participate in the Territory's social and economic opportunities is something I am passionate about. As an educator I know how important it is for children to receive a quality education that equips them with the skills and capabilities they need to confidently engage in the economy.

Governments need to invest in the education system to enable all young people to receive a quality education. That is what this government is doing. Our additional \$124m investment in education not only supports student learning, but also creates job opportunities for more teachers and classroom support staff, as well as allied health professionals such as speech pathologists, occupational therapists, psychologists and a new conductive hearing loss education adviser.

Funding stability for schools will enable them to offer better conditions for teaching and school staff. This means more opportunities for professional learning and an increase in the number of permanent positions. Investing in education also presents an opportunity for jobs for Indigenous Territorians, especially in remote and very remote areas where the majority of Territory schools are located.

This is clearly demonstrated by the Families as First Teachers program. It provides local Indigenous women with meaningful employment opportunities. Each of the FaFT teams employs a family liaison officer, a local Indigenous woman, who helps run the program, engages with families and works with family educators and other service providers in the community. There are 71 people employed across current FaFT sites, with 67% of staff identifying as Indigenous.

Through the expansion of the FaFT program there will be more local job opportunities, especially for Indigenous women in the bush and in urban towns. Over the next four years we will also invest over \$100m through the Building Better Schools initiative, providing \$300 000 to every school for upgrades and \$5m to improve 26 homeland schools across the Territory. The Member for Nhulunbuy has had conversations with me and is very keen to see upgrades to the homeland schools. We will also invest \$40m in the Bullocky Point schools, starting with a \$12m building project at Darwin High School.

Our government is also honouring the investment in capital works projects already planned for Taminmin College, Acacia Hill School, Braitling Primary School and Ramingining and Wulagi primary schools. We have also fast-tracked the construction of the \$6.5m early childhood integrated learning centre in Tennant Creek. In addition to jobs during the construction phase at this early childhood centre, there will also be jobs for early childhood educators and those in the care sector. I am proud to be part of a government which is delivering jobs for Territorians now and into the future.

### **Immediate Works Stimulus Package**

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

Last November, in response to community pressure to bring back the popular Home Improvement Scheme, the Gunner Labor government panicked and announced a second-rate scheme known as the Immediate Works Stimulus Package. The stated aim of this program was to support local business and tradies immediately; however, only \$192 000 has been paid out of the \$10m available.

Chief Minister, it has been nearly five months since the announcement of the immediate works scheme, which is now closed to new applicants. With only 2% of the funds distributed, would you agree that this immediate stimulus is not very immediate? Will you now admit the scheme is another Gunner Labor government failure?

#### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, \$6m has gone out the door for the Immediate Works Stimulus Package, plus \$3m from community groups themselves; so \$9m has gone out. It is fantastic for Territorians. It is odd to hear the Leader of the Opposition criticise some fantastic projects.

I have had the personal pleasure of visiting the St Vincent site in Alice Springs. For two years it has been working to get funding for a veranda to cover its loading dock. This is an important project to help volunteers work rain or shine. For two years they have been trying to get that funding. Today I toured Helping People Achieve to see the work they will be doing. Three-hundred-and-twelve grants have been received. This is a significant project.

There have been more than \$10m in applications received. The scheme was for that \$10m mark, and we have seen more than \$10m in grants. It has been oversubscribed. It is a fantastic project directly investing in community groups in the NT. Six-million dollars has gone out from us in vouchers, and \$3m has been invested by the community groups. I thank all the community groups that registered. I thank the local businesses that registered; they are doing the work.

I was talking to Delta Electric today, which will be doing the work at the HPA site. Local businesses have directly benefited from this scheme. It is a fantastic scheme that has helped local businesses. As the Leader of the Opposition mentioned, we have more than one scheme. The HPA is a good example because it was a significant investment of \$283 000 between us and HPA. That is a big package of work that will last several months.

The Home Improvement Scheme targets a different part of the economy, a different set of contractors—one or two sort of people. You have to get the money to all types of companies across the Territory. You need a proper plan—like we have, unlike the CLP—to target all parts of the sector. We have the steel manufacturing segment of our stimulus package. We have repairs and maintenance for urban housing, remote housing and remote health clinics. We have a variety of packages.

The \$120m worth of infrastructure works is being fast-tracked. We are trying to ensure we get money across the Territory in different sized and shaped packages. We are trying to do as much as we can to help all companies in the Territory, so we can keep people here and employed, and keep businesses doors open.

I thank the businesses. I thank the community organisations. I thank the department for its hard work. It is great to see \$6m has gone out the door, plus \$3m from community groups, for a \$9m investment in that particular part of our stimulus package. We have several arms to our stimulus package, so we have to do what we can to grow and support jobs in the Northern Territory across a range of companies.

### **SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION Immediate Works Stimulus Package**

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

I asked the Chief Minister about the \$192 000 that has been paid out. He said there is \$6m approved. People need to commence that work by June, otherwise they will miss out. If anyone does not meet the June deadline, will he pay the difference from \$192 000 to \$6m?

**ANSWER**

The Leader of the Opposition fails to understand the scheme and how business works. The government is good for the \$6m; I can say that. The businesses will get it. They are guaranteed to get it. The vouchers have been handed over and the projects are happening. It sounds like the Opposition Leader always pays these services up front. We pay at the end of the project. That is what you do.

The \$6m is there, and we are good for it. If you ever want a briefing on how business works, we are happy to provide that. The work is happening and Territory businesses know about it. I have been speaking directly with the community organisations. The government is good for the \$6m. We are stimulating the Northern Territory economy. We are creating and supporting jobs for Territorians. We have a plan, unlike the chaos of the CLP and its absence of a plan. The \$6m is there.

**Solar SETuP**

**Mr McCONNELL to MINISTER for ESSENTIAL SERVICES**

How is this government developing communities and saving on emissions by supporting the very good Solar SETuP project?

**ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, the Gunner Labor government knows that the key to developing the bush is local jobs and engagement. The Solar SETuP project is led by Power and Water, and assisted by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency. It will install PV in 30 off-grid communities, and we are very proud of that. The first communities to receive work are Arlparra, Kintore, Nyirripi, Docker River, Mt Liebig, Areyonga, Yuendumu, Lajamanu, Maningrida and Ramingining.

Most of these communities are operating on diesel, but this Solar SETuP program will start to reduce carbon emissions by up to 15%. The first installation was in Maningrida. I am very proud that the Chief Minister visited there, talked to locals, consulted with them and was able to be part of that great announcement.

It is important to note that Power and Water conducted lots of community consultation before commissioning these projects. They consulted on educating youth and school children about this technology, the importance of it and how to look after it. This leads to important jobs. The first jobs that are created in a project such as Solar SETuP are in management of the site, including weed management and fencing. It is great to see local people engaged and working side-by-side with local Territory industry.

This technology integrates solar PV into the existing grids, which will provide a buffer against variables, such as diesel, road transport of diesel and significant weather events that prevent its transport. Maningrida will save up to 23 066 litres of fuel per year. It is really important to note that local workers engaged in the Maningrida job have stayed on the job. They have moved to Ramingining, which is not so far away, and will also go to Lajamanu. It is exciting that they will move with Territory industry for this Solar SETuP project. There is also local employment to be created as a result of this, in Yuendumu and Kintore.

This government is very proud to deliver the Solar SETuP and renewable targets for 2030.

**Agriculture and Farming – NT Opportunities**

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

This morning I spent some time at the Coastal Plains Research Station. They had a workshop on Banana Freckle and cucumber mosaic virus, amongst other things. It was a great workshop. While I was there one of the gentlemen asked me to ask the minister this question: will the government allow owners of pastoral properties to subdivide their land if the property is good agriculturally, so the land could be used for agricultural purposes and attract more farmers to the Northern Territory as part of growing the north?

**ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, we encourage any investment in the Northern Territory from whomever and wherever. We will look at any opportunity to grow agribusiness.

**A member:** Other than Dan Murphy's.

**Mr VOWLES:** I do not think Dan Murphy's is looking to go into the agricultural sector. I am happy if they have other interests in Katherine around our election commitment to make Katherine the agribusiness hub of the Territory and start a logistical transport hub in our road map to making Katherine the hub of agriculture in the Northern Territory.

I am thankful you took up the offer to listen to the briefings of the knowledgeable department we have for Banana Freckle and the melon virus.

**Mr Wood:** And the NT farmers as well.

**Mr VOWLES:** And the NT farmers, exactly.

It is important. Biosecurity, especially for the Banana Freckle and melon virus issues we have had, is paramount to agriculture and agribusiness in the Northern Territory. I welcome any conversations about the diversity of people's properties to encourage more agriculture in the Northern Territory. I am happy to continue those conversations. If you want to pass on the details of that particular person I will contact them.

**Mr WOOD:** A point of order, Madam Speaker! The question was would the government consider subdividing land that was suitable to attract more farmers?

**Mr VOWLES:** Thank you for that point of order. I encourage any investment in the Northern Territory. As a government we need to look at every opportunity to grow agribusiness and the agriculture sector. I am happy to have those conversations. If you want to pass on that person's details I will contact them and have that conversation.

---

**VISITOR**  
**Corey Charleston**

**Madam SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I advise of the presence in the gallery of the partner of Selena Uiibo, Corey Charleston. Welcome to Parliament House

**Members:** Hear, hear!

---

**Jobs Plan**

**Mr HIGGINS to CHIEF MINISTER**

On 3 February last year you promised to create 12 000 to 14 000 jobs each year. Your jobs plan committed to research that keeps people in the Territory, and prepares a package that will reduce the pressure on the cost of living. You have been in government for seven months. How many new jobs have you created? What has been the net increase in population? When will you release your package to reduce the cost of living in the Territory?

**ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the question from the Leader of the Opposition and his acknowledgment that we went to the last Territory election with a jobs plan. We went to the election with a clear plan to put Territorians first, and a plan for our economy in difficult times, with the absence of a plan from the CLP.

Having consulted with my departments and Treasury, we have invested in the NT according to our jobs plan to get money flowing locally again. Through our infrastructure and stimulus spend and the activity of government we have created and supported over 8000 jobs in the Northern Territory. We are ahead of the target. I appreciate the work the Cabinet has done. That is what we have done to create and support jobs in the Northern Territory. There is a clear way you can do that, and it is by having a jobs plan. I thank my team who has worked on that plan.

We are going into the budget on 2 May; population will be at the front of our minds in the formation of budget. A big part of that is cost of living and how we approach it. It is something we will be considering strongly as part of our budget. It is one of the things that has the potential to hurt our GST receipts.

I have raised this in estimates as shadow treasurer. The then CLP Treasurer had no eye towards our population figures. I spent considerable time discussing it with him. Population is fundamental to how we grow the Territory and drive GST benefits. It is part of the equation. We have been reliant on the natural birth rate. It is a significant concern we have had, and why we have our eye on it. It is one of the compounding impacts on the GST. You will see more about what we are doing on population and cost of living in the budget. It must be a clear part of our plan for the Northern Territory.

We have created and supported jobs in the Northern Territory to keep Territorians here. We fixed the mistakes the CLP made for first home buyers to make sure more Territorians own their piece of the NT. That is a crucial change. It is critical to population and keeping people here. We have seen a significant number of first home buyers take advantage of that scheme and stay in the Territory.

We have created and supported jobs in the Territory according to our jobs plan. We will be shaping our budget around Territorians and jobs for Territorians.

### **Economic Summits and Jobs**

#### **Mr McCONNELL to CHIEF MINISTER**

The final economic summits will be held in Alice Springs on Friday 24 March and in Darwin on Wednesday 29 March. Can you please provide an update on the summit progress to date and how these economic summits will support jobs across the Territory?

#### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, this is part of the jobs plan we took to the election. Territorians elected this government to create jobs, create opportunity and pathways for kids, restore faith in the Territory government and empower the bush and lift its people into prosperity. The last four years were bad for Territorians. There is a cost to chaos. This is why we promise to deliver stability and certainty. We promise to listen and plan for the long-term, beyond election cycles and above egos and spin.

Our economic and social agenda begins with creating and supporting jobs in the Northern Territory because there is no more potent agent of change for our economies, communities and individuals. Only by creating and supporting jobs will we grow the population and support the diverse economy we need to even out the Territory's boom and bust approach. We need sustainable growth and diversity in the economy.

We promised long-term plans to restore that confidence and certainty, and our economic summits are a big part of that. We promised to work with local businesses and communities, and to work together to make sure we have a plan that all Territorians have bought into. I am proud to say that this process has been extremely successful. Tomorrow the final public summit will be held in Alice Springs, and next Wednesday the final public summit will be held in Darwin.

This will conclude four in-depth design and consultation phases, which have considered core topics, such as creating jobs in the economy, the right place to invest our infrastructure spending, stemming the population outflow, innovation in the Territory economy, regional growth and Indigenous economic engagement. Over 250 people and businesses were consulted in phase one, and a further 600 individual stakeholders were consulted in phases two and three.

From these consultations a series of draft documents for discussion were created. Yesterday we released a draft economic development framework, draft infrastructure strategy and draft infrastructure plan. This is about creating certainty and confidence for people to know where and how we will invest, so they can shape their investment decisions around that. This is the antidote to the chaos we saw over the last four years, which Territorians do not want to see again.

These documents are now open for further public consultation and comment. Please look at them, tear them apart and put them back together. Buy in to the long-term plans for the NT. We have to do this together. We have to do this better than last term, in which we saw thought bubbles and stuff made up from budget to budget. There was no long-term plan for the Territory. We will do better for Territorians. They will



come first. We have to put Territorians first, which is a huge lesson from the last four years. We will do that with these long-term plans.

### **Crime in Alice Springs**

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

We have just been told the economic summit is in Alice Springs tomorrow. Will you be speaking to the people of Alice Springs about the cost of crime there and the fact that commercial break-ins are up 32% over the last 12 months? Will you be giving them some solution as to how they can carry their businesses out of the economic dire straits they have been put in because of the outrageous spike in crime this summer? What will you do to help local businesses and the local economy of Alice Springs get through the cost of crime this summer?

#### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I thank the Member for Araluen for the question. She delivered it with passion because she is passionate about her local community of Alice Springs. Tomorrow I will meet with a significant number of Alice Springs businesses. That is the purpose of the economic summit. I will be talking with them about any of the concerns they have. They are more than welcome to put the subject of crime on the table.

I know they want to talk about mining, resources, agribusiness and tourism, which is a big part of their agenda. I will talk with them and a significant number of people from the centre of our nation in Alice Springs. Businesses have concerns, and I am more than happy to discuss any of those concerns with them at the summit.

There is a very clear agenda that is positive for Alice Springs. It is an investment in Alice Springs, and it is part of the passion we have, as the Member for Araluen has, for Alice Springs. We love Alice Springs. We recognise that under the CLP it started to stagnate. We saw the loss of an electoral seat in Alice Springs, which was a shame. We need to invest in Alice Springs, grow it again and make a clear statement that Alice Springs should be a destination in its own right, which is part of the tourism agenda.

Alice Springs is the inland capital of Central Australia. That is how we will invest in it. It is and will be the home of the national iconic Indigenous art gallery. Students from around this nation will have on their curriculum, 'I must get to Alice for that gallery'. It will be a huge part of how we invest in Alice Springs. I want every tourist who wants to learn about Indigenous art and culture to know they must go to Alice Springs. It is special. The romance of the Centre is real.

The government will invest in Alice Springs. There are some concerns over our summer period, and I have been talking about them with local people in Alice Springs. We had a fantastic meeting that the Member for Brailling organised, with a significant number of locals who are concerned and had ideas about how we can make Alice Springs better. One of the clear comments from them was that they wanted investment into preventing crime. We have done that.

We responded directly to the ideas of the people of Alice Springs about early intervention and prevention with 52 youth justice officers. We will see some of the new 18 police officers based in Alice Springs. Two of those detectives are based there, as are 16 of the youth justice officers. We are investing in Alice Springs. It will be the trial site, the first phase of the electronic monitoring bracelets for adults and youth. We have a clear focus on Alice Springs as we understand the importance of it to the Northern Territory. We will invest in Alice Springs, and turn around the plateauing of the population, which we saw under the CLP. We have to; we need a strong Alice Springs for a strong Northern Territory.

### **Geoscience Exploration Seminar**

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

The Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar will be held in Alice Springs later this month. Why is this an important event for Alice Springs, and how does it contribute to the creation and maintenance of jobs in the mining sector?

## ANSWER

Madam Speaker, this Labor government recognises the importance of the resource sector as a vital contributor to the Territory economy and a key creator of jobs. The Territory has a wealth of mineral energy opportunities. We need to attract investment in resource projects that will take advantage of these opportunities to subsequently create employment prospects for all Territorians.

We are promoting the Territory's prospects by giving explorers a much-improved understanding of the Territory's geology and resources potential. Since coming to government we have made all geological reports since 1901 available online. That is over 23 000 reports that can now be reviewed online anywhere in the world to promote investment and exploration in the Northern Territory.

I am proud to be opening and attending the 2017 Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar, known as AGES. This seminar is held in Alice Springs on 28 and 29 March. This will be the 18<sup>th</sup> AGES conference, and the 17<sup>th</sup> in Alice Springs. AGES is a technical conference for industry to assess its latest exploration ideas and geoscientific data from the Territory, and to network with colleagues who share an interest in discovery and development of Territory resources. AGES is the Territory's premier exploration event and a key element to the Territory government's efforts to attract and support resource exploration in the Northern Territory.

I am looking forward to getting an overview of the recent minerals and petroleum exploration activity highlights and trends in the Northern Territory. There will also be a presentation on gold exploration. The Member for Barkly is very keen about the gold exploration and the geology of the Tanami, the iconic Tennant Creek and also Pine Creek.

I am also looking forward to hearing about the new geoscience data and information under the Territory's Creating Opportunities for Resource Exploration initiative, the release of the details of major new mining geoscience programs and the upcoming geoscience programs in the Territory under the Commonwealth's Exploring for the Future program.

The 2017 conference will also highlight the results of the innovative geoscience programs for the NT geological survey team, and how we support potential exploration across the Territory. The mining service expo is also part of AGES, and it creates many opportunities to develop the exploration of the mining sectors in the NT, and helps support regional economies, such as Tennant Creek.

We understand that a secure and rewarding job is the best way to ensure Territorians stay in the Territory. That is why this government supports conferences like AGES. We want Territorians to stay here. We want them to have opportunities to stay here and have good jobs.

### **Youth Justice – Systematic Issues at Don Dale**

#### **Mrs FINOCCHIARO to CHIEF MINISTER**

While fronting the Royal Commission last week the Minister for Housing and Community Development, the former Minister for Corrections, testified that he was not provided with a full picture of the systematic problems at Don Dale during his tenure. He said he had not seen the vision of the most serious incidents shown on the *Four Corners* program, most of which occurred in 2010-11. What procedures are in place today to ensure incidents like those shown on *Four Corners*, as well as the systematic issues they suggest, are dealt with promptly and appropriately?

## ANSWER

Madam Speaker, that is a very important question. As leader I take responsibility for things that happen under our watch. That was a test that was failed during the last term. I take responsibility. I have a close working relationship with the Minister for Territory Families.

There was a recent incident which I was asked about today before the Royal Commission. I have been very careful about not running a commentary on the Royal Commission, but this is important because it came up under our watch. A video was tabled at the Royal Commission. NAAJA, the youth's lawyers, the Children's Commissioner and the Department of Territory Families saw that video from all angles. The complaint was dropped, and no further action was taken.

I was asked today whether I had been informed of that video or not. In that instance, no, because it had been fully investigated. The point at which I am informed is when there is an issue that requires escalation, where there is a clear need. The Minister for Territory Families has an important role directly with youth justice facilities and what happens there. I have a close working relationship with her. Those are the circumstances which I expect to be briefed on. I made it very clear I take responsibility for children in our care. That is an important test for every government. It was a test that was failed late last term by the then government.

I took responsibility as Leader of the Opposition, and I take responsibility now as Chief Minister, for the actions of previous Labor governments. If you do not accept responsibility then you cannot be part of the solution. We want to be in full partnership with the non-government sector, and with everyone involved in this space, to work together on a better solution to break the cycle with early intervention, prevention and rehabilitation.

This is a path we were on late into our last time in government. I pay respect to the former Leader of the Opposition, Jodeen Carney, and the minister at the time, because we were on a path. We had not done all the work we needed to do yet, but we went to the 2012 election with a clear path of early intervention, prevention and rehabilitation. Tragically the CLP walked away from that during its term.

Now we have a broken youth justice system which is desperately in need of fixing. We have taken big steps towards doing that with an investment in 54 youth justice workers, the change in culture we are making, the shift from corrections to Territory Families, the full and proper training of youth justice officers and the fact they are youth justice officers and not correctional officers. We are changing the culture. We are doing what we can to break the cycle to ensure there is no reoffending. That is because we have taken responsibility and will be part of the solution.

### **Protecting Darwin Harbour**

#### **Ms UIBO to MINISTER for ENVIRONMENT and NATURAL RESOURCES**

Madam Speaker, before I ask the question, I would like to acknowledge my partner, Corey Charleston, a returning resident to the Northern Territory who will be a constituent of the Member for Katherine, so that is pretty exciting.

How is the government ensuring that Territorians have a say in the ongoing management and protection of Darwin Harbour, one of our most important natural assets?

#### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for the question and welcome her partner in the Chamber. The Member for Arnhem has a deep appreciation for the environment and its connection to Territorians, so I appreciate that she asked this question today.

Strong environmental policy makes good economic sense. This is why we went to the election with a very strong and robust set of policies for the environment, which included our sustainable water use policy, a commitment to a coastal and marine strategy and a range of other commitments to reform environmental assessment.

We understand that our connection to the land and sea underpins the great lifestyle we have in the Territory. It offers us a wealth of opportunities for economic development and underpins our thriving tourism industry, which is a huge economic driver in the Territory. As the Chief Minister said today, this government has a very strong focus on children; protecting the environment is a priority to improve outcomes for future generations.

The Darwin Harbour is one of our greatest natural assets. It is crucial that we continue to preserve it for future generations of Territorians. We delivered on a key election commitment by announcing the expression of interest process for community members to join the new Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee, and that process is well under way with expressions of interest closing on 7 April.

I ask all members in the Chamber to think about people in their community who might have the interest and drive to get involved in that group. Territorians have a vital role to play in protecting environmental assets, and they want to be part of that process. We have heard loud and clear that the community wants to be involved in protecting our precious environmental assets.

We are returning the community voice when it comes to managing those assets. We are looking for a range of stakeholders, including Indigenous leaders, recreational fishermen, researchers and representatives from local business and industry. Their role will be to provide the government with advice on the effective management of Darwin Harbour and its catchment to ensure the environment is protected while we look to retain sustainable development in Darwin more broadly.

The mangrove dieback has been in the news again this week. James Cook University has been speaking about it. It is a vital habitat in the Darwin Harbour and across the Territory. We have to protect it. I look forward to seeing the expressions of interest, and seeing the comprehensive plan of management that group will provide to government.

### **Budget Cuts**

#### **Mr MILLS to CHIEF MINISTER**

I predict that the Treasurer will return to Darwin with some very sobering news that will make the next three years and the next budget particularly difficult for you and your government. It has been easy to make spending announcements and blame the past, but it will not be so easy with funding cuts. There will be cuts required to make savings. What areas do you think savings could be made in? Are you prepared for the coming storm?

#### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, this goes to a very important subject. We have to manage the Territory's budget for the needs of Territorians while also recognising the tough economic times we are in. Territorians have to come first; we have to recognise that in how we shape our budget. I acknowledge the advice—I always get advice in this job—that has come from the Chamber of Commerce and business generally about the need to apply internal discipline to the way government runs, while investing in those things that create and support jobs in the Northern Territory.

We will have a difficult road to walk because we know, even before the potential news that will come out of Canberra, the budget was left in bad shape. It simply was. I am not discovering black holes or anything like that. The pre-election fiscal outlook made it clear the budget was in bad shape. That is the context in which we have to find ways, as a Cabinet, to keep putting Territorians first.

When we make tough savings decisions, they will be public. We will speak with Territorians about those tough decisions. It will be difficult; there is no doubt about that. We are not sugar-coating it. We will go through difficult times. But, as much as the Territory budget is in a difficult place, Territorians are in a harder place. We recognise that 2016 was the worst year for Territorians, and 2017 had the potential to be worse because of the INPEX construction phase winding down. We have plans for that.

The Deloitte independent assessment of the economy underscores the need for government stimulus policy measures. That is work we have to do, and we are telling Territorians about it. As part of that internal discipline, through the budget process we will talk to Territorians about the tough decisions we make. We are looking at the priorities of government. I have said that before. We are making sure we get full value out of the taxpayer dollar to deliver what Territorians need.

We have to make those tough decisions, but I assure you, Member for Blain, Territorians and public servants, we will speak with Territorians about those decisions. We will not sack public servants. We value the public service. Accusations have been made in the past, but that is not what we are doing.

We will make tough decisions internally on how the budget is managed, and we will be up front with Territorians about those decisions and the context in which we make them. This is all being done so we can put Territorians first and drive the need to create and support jobs in the Territory to keep Territorians here.

### **National Youth Week**

#### **Ms AH KIT to MINISTER for TERRITORY FAMILIES**

National Youth Week kicks off next week. As a former member of the Chief Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians I have always enjoyed this celebration of young people and their achievements Territory-wide. Can you please tell us how young Territorians can get involved in this event?

## ANSWER

Madam Speaker, one of the reasons the Territory is such a vibrant and exciting place is that we are a very young place. This morning in my ministerial statement on women ...

**Mr Higgins:** Getting old, though.

**Ms WAKEFIELD:** Not all of us are young; I agree.

Of all Northern Territory women 40% are under 25, so this is a great opportunity for us. I think that is why Youth Week is really important. It is also important to take the opportunity to celebrate the positive contribution that many young people make to the Northern Territory every day. Tomorrow the Member for Sanderson will be the keynote speaker at the UN Youth NT conference. That is fantastic and we look forward to a report on that.

Youth Week runs from 31 March until 9 April. Celebrations start with a gala dinner and the Young Achiever Awards next Saturday. There are some great Alice Springs people up for awards, including Claire Ryan, who many of you know. She is an excellent photographer and a great young volunteer in our community.

Amongst the nominees is a really diverse group of people. There are carers, environmentalists, business owners, volunteers, people with sporting achievements and people who set out to improve the lives of Territorians. One thing I notice when I meet these young people is how positive they are about contributing to our community.

The Northern Territory Government and I, as minister, were very proud to sign off on \$80 000 worth of grants for awards. The Anglicare couch surfing races will be in front of Parliament House. It always looks very dangerous on TV. To my colleagues who participate, please be careful. It looks very exciting though.

Headspace in Alice Springs is holding a free Harry Potter viewing and a real-life game of Quidditch afterwards. Umbakumba is having a barbecue. There is also the Gove's Got Talent competition. We know Gove has talent, so that will be a busy event, I am sure. Somerville is doing a youth gaming competition in Katherine. There are many enthusiastic gamers in Katherine. The list goes on. There is a lot more on the webpage if you are interested. To the Member for Barkly, there is a pool party in Tennant Creek.

We have fantastic ambassadors. We live in a big place with big skies. There is a lot of space for young people to dream big, which is this year's theme.

### **Youth Justice – Don Dale New Facility**

#### **Mrs FINOCCHIARO to CHIEF MINISTER**

On 26 July last year you committed to closing the Don Dale centre as soon as possible. In the eight months since that commitment was made nearly \$2.5m has been spent on work on Don Dale, which was declared unsafe by you and your government. Recently the former Minister for Correctional Services and current Minister for Housing and Community Development deemed the Don Dale site inappropriate and endorsed a new purpose-built facility.

Has a site been selected for a new youth detention facility? Is there an allocation in the upcoming budget? When will detainees be transferred to the new facility?

## ANSWER

Madam Speaker, we have a broken youth justice system in the Northern Territory. It is being examined by a Royal Commission. One of the big questions for the Royal Commission goes to how we run youth justice facilities. They are looking at a broad community-based model.

We have to be careful that we do not go out of step with what the Royal Commission is doing. We think there is certain logic in making these decisions. We have 52 youth justice officers. We are going through the alternatives to sentencing, which is what the Royal Commission is looking at. Once these two steps are completed we will have a better grip on the system. Then we can make a fully-informed, proper, practical decision about the youth detention facilities. That is the process we are going through. We made that process clear to the Royal Commission. Some of it depends on the information we get from the Royal Commission's interim report in March next week.

It will be very helpful for the budget cycle we are in. We do not know the extent to which the Commonwealth will participate in the outcomes of the Royal Commission. Let us not lose sight of that. The Royal Commission will potentially trigger Commonwealth investment. If we get this in the wrong order we will be acting out of sync with what the Commonwealth does, which we have to be mindful of. There is a clear, logical order we are building up to. We are being careful with taxpayers' dollars. We do not want to build a facility we do not need; it is too big, in the wrong location or is not catering properly to the youth justice population.

The youth justice workers will get involved early to keep the number of offenders down. This will help to stop crime by getting to vulnerable families and kids early. The youth justice workers will target that part of the system. We will get the alternative sentencing done properly so we know exactly where the kids in the youth justice system are in the Territory, and how they are being treated in those places. Then we can make a fully informed decision, sensitive to the taxpayer dollar, about exactly what kind of facility we need. It will be in the right place doing the right thing. We recognise the need for a high-security element to the youth justice system.

That is the process we are going through. We are doing a full consultation with the non-government sector. They know the investments we are making to the old Don Dale to fix what we inherited. It is not the best facility, but it is the best facility we have. We have to make it safer and more secure while we take these sensible steps.

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