



## MEDIA RELEASE

**MICHAEL GUNNER**  
TERRITORY LABOR LEADER

### LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NT TABLED DOCUMENTS

Committee: *Estimates*  
Paper No: *2-4* Date: *28/11/17*  
Tabled By: *Munson*  
Signed: *Munson*

25<sup>th</sup> August 2016

## TREASURY SIGNS OFF ON LABOR'S COSTINGS

Territory Labor Leader Michael Gunner today released Labor's Treasury assessed costings of its election commitments.

Treasury has formally signed off on Labor's costing assessment.

Treasury has also confirmed that a Labor Government can reduce both deficit and debt over the course of its first term while fulfilling its commitment to invest in children, grow jobs and restore trust to Government.

The PEFO completely discredits the CLP claims of 24 000 jobs, instead pointing to the lowest job growth forecasts in recent history. Based on current CLP Government policy the PEFO has forecast employment at an annual average of 0.65% over the four years of the forward estimates, which is around 878 annually, less than 4000 over the next four years. The PEFO also forecasts increasing unemployment across the next four years.

When the CLP came to office they inherited the highest economic growth in the country with Gross State Product at 5.6% and healthy forecasts across the forward estimates.

Four years later economic growth is now only 2.1% and has been forecast by Treasury in the PEFO to crash further to 1.5% in 2016/17.

The deficit has blown out by a further \$82 million and projected debt will reach almost \$3.1 billion.

Economic growth rates are slow and Treasury has repeated its warnings about the slump in economic performance by the Territory.

This makes it more important than ever for Labor to deliver on its plans to grow jobs by continuing the stimulus of the Territory economy.

**We will achieve this by bringing on to budget an additional \$100 million of funds from the Northern Territory Infrastructure Fund while not impacting on the final year's deficit and debt.**

Labor has made significant savings to ensure that the Territory budget remains contained within the very tight parameters left by the CLP.

Our commitment to jobs is central to a Labor Government and unlike the CLP we are not prepared to walk away from our commitments.

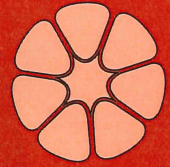
Labor's savings will be built in part on reducing the costs of Government. We will also reduce the number of Government agencies, stop the Alcohol Mandatory Treatment program, reduce travel and advertising costs and improve efficiency through Labor's planned 5 year grants program.

By increasing the number of agencies in 2012 the CLP government reduced efficiency, increased the wages bill and destroyed coordination. Labor never supported this.



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Territory Public Servants want better coordination and fewer agencies.

We will take advice from the Department of the Chief Minister, the Treasury and the Commissioner for Public Employment on the best structure for delivering our policies and we will work with them to ensure a seamless transition.

Labor will ask the Department of Chief Minister to coordinate the changes in cooperation with the public service and the public sector unions.

Treasury has confirmed that by reducing the number of chief executives and deputies and reducing the inefficiencies that go with a high number of agencies, Labor can save in the order of \$15 million each year through this restructuring.

Staff below that level will be absorbed into the new arrangements easily as the Territory public service turns over around 5000 people per year.

Only a Labor Government will stand by its commitments to build remote housing.

Treasury has made it clear that achieving our infrastructure program over the next four years will be difficult.

Labor will achieve it by placing our commitments at the head of the program and reprioritising the CLP's infrastructure plans.

This is the practice that any new government undertakes. We will receive the incoming Government brief and will scrutinise the forward program once it is available to us.

We will then ensure Labor's priorities begin to be delivered.

This stands in stark contrast the CLP who have walked away from their remote constituents.

The CLP promised \$1.6 billion over eight years from 2018/19 for remote housing. They have only funded \$115 million to achieve this – a shortfall of \$285 million.

They have dumped their promise at the last moment after most people who live remotely have already voted.

Labor started the election campaign with a commitment to invest in children, grow jobs and restore trust.

It is ending the campaign demonstrating exactly how this will be achieved by a Labor Government.

This is what Territorians expect. A Government that sticks to its word, makes sensible and achievable commitments and then delivers them.

If Territorians elect a Labor Government this is what they will get.

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