



**GARY HIGGINS**  
**OPPOSITION LEADER**

**Media Release**  
**28 November 2017**

**Estimates**

The Labor Government continues to mislead Territorians by stating the work has not been done in relation to Estimates.

The Leader of the Opposition has said that these throw away lines don't fool anyone.

"The Opposition has compiled more than 350 questions in relation to the 2016-17 annual reports that have been tabled in Parliament.

"Our questions relate to the outcomes for Territorians, ensuring that money has been well spent and that Territorians are receiving what they deserve.

"While the Labor government is looking back over a reporting period which is now five months old, the Opposition has worked to secure the Productivity Commission to hold a public hearing in Darwin, which commences today.

"The Productivity Commission's public hearings in Darwin are a vital inquiry into the current system of GST distributions to states and territories.

"The Northern Territory is exceptionally dependent on GST revenue to fund critical services for Territorians.

"At the present time, GST revenue makes up over 50 per cent of the Northern Territory's annual income as in Budget 2017-18.

"The Northern Territory currently receives \$4.66 for every \$1 raised, and hence, has the most to lose from any change to the current system of GST distribution," said Mr Higgins.

**ENDS**

**Media contact:** Georgina Murphy 0432 679 567

*Please note that the Leader of the Opposition will appear before the Productivity Commission tomorrow, Wednesday 29 November at 8.40am.*