



GARY HIGGINS
OPPOSITION LEADER

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BLOW OUT 2018 – reckless and foolhardy

Today's Labor Territory Budget is reckless and foolhardy.

Leader of the Opposition, Gary Higgins said that the unprecedented level of net debt, set to soar to \$4.5 billion in 2018-19 is quite simply, a terrible legacy for the Territory and Territorians.

"The Northern Territory is on a pathway to insolvency under this Labor government.

"To hear that the Territory will be saddled with a \$7.5 billion net debt by 2021-22, is frightening, as is hearing that Territorians will be paying \$1.4 million per day in interest payments.

"This budget is a train wreck, Labor is throwing Territorian's hard earned dollars around like it is monopoly money and without consequence. It has failed to make the hard and necessary decisions.

"Since coming to government in 2016, Labor has failed to manage the economy, failed to grow the Territory population and create jobs and today, well and truly proven that they can't even manage a budget, let alone spend it's much lauded record infrastructure spend," said Mr Higgins.

The below commentary can be attributed to the Leader of the Opposition in relation to the Labor government's plans to attract more women to the Northern Territory:

"Today's announcement to attract young women to the Northern Territory is welcome, except, as usual the Labor government has no plan and clearly has failed to consider the very real community safety concerns and increasing rates of crime that are plaguing the Northern Territory.

"Labor's pursuit of young women to boost the Territory's population should first include addressing the increasing cost of living in the Northern Territory, including the spiralling cost of fuel."

The below commentary can be attributed to the Leader of the Opposition in relation to the Labor government's plans to provide payroll tax incentives:

"The Opposition welcomes measures that incentivise additional employment opportunities for Territorians, however, given Labor's pathetic track record on increasing jobs so far, the devil will be in the detail.

“Rather than ruling out fly-in-fly-out (FIFO) workers as new Territorians, Labor should instead consider trying to attract existing FIFO workers to put down their roots in the Northern Territory.

“There could also be unintended consequences of simply whipping out FIFO workers, with some FIFO roles currently filling positions that can’t be staffed with locals.”

ENDS

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