



GARY HIGGINS
OPPOSITION LEADER

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For immediate circulation

Is Labor really driving the economy?

The \$32 million underground carpark, earmarked for State Square, should not be the priority for the government in the current climate of business uncertainty.

The Leader of the Opposition, Gary Higgins expressed his support for the development of the CBD and wider Darwin precinct that is safe, enjoyable and attractive to locals and visitors alike.

“The Darwin City Masterplan has 72 projects and it’s unclear why a carpark has been chosen as the priority.

“The focus should be providing facilities and attractions to drive people to the CBD, and encouraging private investment to give our economy a much needed boost.

“I reiterate my call for a cost-benefit analysis for this carpark, which to date, has not been shared.

“The government also needs to tell Territorians what it will cost to park in the new carpark, particularly if this carpark will replace existing car parking that is currently free to use.

“What discussions have occurred that may result in free car parking for occupants of Parliament House, and the Supreme Court?

“This will surely have an impact on the financial viability of the project.

“Developing the Darwin CBD, tackling antisocial behaviour and assisting existing businesses should remain a key focus of this government.

“These basic responsibilities should be the priorities over a carpark and developing the \$50 million plus museum at Myilly Point that Territorians do not want,” said Mr Higgins.

ENDS

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