



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

**Media Release**

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**The Territory is not in a great economic state under Labor**

It is time for the Chief Minister and his Labor government to deliver its economic plan for Territorians, and explain the detail and the dollars.

The most recent *CommSec State of the States* report (January 2018) paints a grim picture of the Northern Territory's economic performance.

Leader of the Opposition, Gary Higgins said that government needs to explain how it is going to turn the economy around, and when.

"The Labor government needs to get moving and inject some confidence in the economy and stimulate much needed private sector investment.

"The forward-looking indicators in the *State of the States* report, including population growth, housing finance trends and a downturn in business investment (equipment) are extremely worrying.

"Now, more than ever, Territorians and businesses are looking to the Labor government for leadership, now is not the time to be introducing new taxes or increasing the cost of living and doing business.

"Prioritising and attracting private investment, including approving the proposed \$40 million project at the Darwin International Airport, must be top of the Labor government's agenda for 2018.

"Development of a best practice regulated on-shore gas industry will provide an unmatched economic driver for the Territory and for Territorians.

"Big projects need to be income producing projects.

"The previous CLP government had a plan to diversify the economy.

"When Labor came to power in 2016, construction was 21 per cent of Northern Territory output, it is now 11 per cent.

"The Northern Territory remains in seventh position behind all states and territories except Western Australia, a significant fall since the fourth position previously held in October 2016.

"It is time to hang out the open for business sign and get the money flowing into Territorian's pockets, via big projects and local jobs.

"We must let businesses know we welcome them to the Territory," said Mr Higgins.

**ENDS**

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