



GARY HIGGINS
OPPOSITION LEADER

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For immediate release

Chief Minister refuses to rule out land tax

In this afternoon's parliamentary question time, the Chief Minister refused to rule out introducing a land tax, which would further drive up the cost of living for Territorians at a time when the economy is already in a dangerous decline.

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The Leader of the Opposition asked the Chief Minister the following question:

Chief Minister, you committed to make your Government 'open and transparent'.

You said at a Property Council meeting in 2016 that there would be no land tax under Labor.

Yet, 18 months in, we see you backtrack on your promise and try to introduce a land tax.

Chief Minister, will you apologise to Territorians for breaking an election promise?

Will you commit to dropping your grossly unfair, unnecessary and unwise land tax?

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The Leader of the Opposition, Gary Higgins said the question to the Chief Minister was straight forward, and that the Chief Minister refusing to rule out the land tax, and in doing so, honour his election promise from 2016, should send a clear message to Territorians.

"The Chief Minister and his Labor government have every intention of increasing the cost of living for Territorians, be it through increasing new taxes, or increasing existing taxes.

"Today I referenced a promise by the Chief Minister from 2016, but he has made the same promise in February 2017 at his own State of the Territory address and his Treasurer too, at the Budget Breakfast in May 2017.

"Figures from the government's own Revenue Discussion Paper indicate that a land tax could cost the average Territorian family \$4,800 per year.

"When will the Chief Minister and his colleagues start listening to Territorians and respected advocacy groups like the Real Estate Institute of the Northern Territory (REINT), Property Council Northern Territory and the Council of the Ageing Northern Territory (COTA), who have publicly opposed the Labor government's financial failure of an idea to introduce a land tax," asked Mr Higgins.

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