



GARY HIGGINS
OPPOSITION LEADER

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For immediate release

Significant underspend highlights government economic incompetence

The latest Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics report, to 31 January 2018 shows a significant underspend of just \$434.9 million of Labor government's much lauded \$1.75 billion infrastructure program.

The government has previously revised its cash spend down from \$967 million to \$864 million for this financial year, as if to attempt to retreat on its own spending commitments.

Leader of the Opposition, Gary Higgins said that the significant underspend, eight months into the 2017/18 financial year shows that the Labor government continues to mismanage the Territory's economy.

"It is time for the Treasurer to tell Territorians what the expected spend for this financial year will be.

"The much lauded \$1.75 billion infrastructure spend is not being used to stimulate the economy, or create jobs, like Labor says it is.

"It is vital, particularly in the current economic climate that the government leads by example, working to get projects awarded and started as quickly as possible.

"The recent Master Builders NT Industry Forecasts (December 2017) report shows a significant decrease in residential building, houses and other dwellings work being undertaken, reiterating the need for government to lead the way with its capital works, minor new works and repairs and maintenance spend," said Mr Higgins.

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