



**GARY HIGGINS  
OPPOSITION LEADER**

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*For immediate circulation*

**The Territory: 14,000 new jobs**

The recent announcement that the Northern Territory will lose \$136 million from its 2018/19 budget reinforces the need for the Labor government to work hard to grow the population and drive the economy.

The Leader of the Opposition, Gary Higgins said that he wants to see the Territory prosper, with a healthy economy, a growing population and service delivery for the betterment of all Territorians.

“The Opposition does not support the Northern Territory losing any money from the GST distribution process, losing one cent is one cent too much.

“An on-shore shale gas industry that is well-regulated could deliver at least 14,000 jobs.

“The decrease of funding available from the GST distribution reinforces the importance of lifting the moratorium, which would build certainty and provide much needed jobs for Territorians.

“We need look no further than North Dakota in the United States.

“After wide-scale onshore gas production began, North Dakota’s economic output more than doubled during that time, from \$24 billion in 2002 to \$50 billion in 2013,” said Mr Higgins.

**ENDS**

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