



GARY HIGGINS
OPPOSITION LEADER

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For immediate release

Labour Force: figures are down

The latest *Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Force Report* figures, released today, detail a further disappointing drop of full time employment in the Northern Territory.

Today's report shows 3,100 less people were employed (full-time), compared with the same time last year. The previous ABS report detailed a loss of 5,000 full time jobs for the year to the end of February 2018.

These figures follow the latest *Sensis Business Index* released on Tuesday (17 April) showing a further collapse in confidence for the Northern Territory, now trailing 40 points under the national average.



Leader of the Opposition, Gary Higgins said that the latest figures reinforce the importance of the government now cracking on with implementing the necessary regulations and kick starting the onshore shale gas industry to deliver much needed dollars to the Territory's bottom line and jobs for Territorians.

"Today's *Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Force Report* reinforces that it is absolutely crucial the next steps of implementation for a well-regulated, onshore shale gas industry are progressed as a priority.

"The regulations should be worked on right now, and I understand that there is some support from the Federal government available for environmental studies, for example .

"The Chief Minister must make the Territory economy, and jobs to keep Territorians in the Territory his priority.

"Next month's budget must drive private investment and create the 14,000 jobs (per year) that the Labor government promised," said Mr Higgins.

	Tasmania +54 (↓6)
	Australian Capital Territory +54 (↑2)
	Victoria +49 (↑6)
	New South Wales +43 (↓3)
	<i>National average</i> +42 (0)
	Queensland +41 (↓2)
	South Australia +36 (↑2)
	Western Australia +24 (↓7)
	Northern Territory +2 (↓10)

ABOVE: Small to Medium Business Confidence by State, by *Sensis Business Index* (page 9, March 2018)

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Media contact: Georgina Murphy 0432 679 567