



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

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## **Underground power not carparks**

Territorians should be digging for further details on the back of today's contract award announcement for the \$19.4 million underground carpark at State Square.

Leader of the Opposition, Gary Higgins continued his call for the Labor government to make public the cost benefit analysis of the project, which will see Territorian taxpayers fork out for a carpark to cater for Parliament House. The multi-million dollar spend should instead be directed to a staged approach to undergrounding power.

"Labor is misleading Territorians when it refuses to unveil the detail or the business plan for this project.

"It remains a mystery which existing free car parks will be scrapped in favour of this new facility, and how much Territorians will now have to pay to park their cars.

"In the current economic landscape, building an underground carpark is hardly a priority.

"Beyond the short term employment it creates, a new carpark will not attract tourism to the CBD or improve safety for Territorians and visitors alike, which is why the Opposition does not earmark it as a priority project.

"Questions also remain as to what requirements the government will impose on the awarded contractor to manage the impact of construction at the busy location so as to not inconvenience Territorians, including those that live in the vicinity if works are to take place at night.

"All in all, a tremendous lot of inconvenience for residents and visitors alike for little or no gain at a time when the Territory is facing a crime crisis, a decline in population, increased cost of living and a worsening economy," said Mr Higgins.

**ENDS**

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