



## **GARY HIGGINS**

### **OPPOSITION LEADER**

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## **FLOP-ulation plan**

The Territory Labor government's population plan is two years too late, and as has become trademark of this government, the plan is half a job.

Leader of the Opposition, Gary Higgins, said that a growth in the Territory's population was vital for the economy and the Northern Territory's future prospects.

"It is baffling that the Territory government has not bothered to work alongside knowledgeable advocacy groups like the Chamber of Commerce in its development of this plan.

"As has become trademark of this Labor government, they appear to know everything, their arrogance is breath taking.

"Labor came to power two years ago talking about growing the Territory and creating some 14,000 jobs per year.

"They have failed on both accounts. At last count they are at least 25,000 jobs short.

"We would expect that the government's population plan would include incentives to attract and retain people in the Territory as well as keep existing Territorians here.

"That includes assistance for existing businesses who are already established and already employ Territorians.

"The Opposition would also expect measures to encourage private sector investment, so the public purse doesn't have to carry the can by itself.

"A year ago, the Opposition moved a motion in parliament – which was supported by all in the house – that population growth was vital to the growth of the Territory.

"It should be noted that the Chief Minister didn't even bother to speak to the motion, that's how serious he is about sustainable growth of the Territory's population.

"One has to question why he is hosting a taxpayer funded lunch for 200 people who already live here.

"The cost of this Hilton Hotel event should be put towards employing frontline staff, such as police and nurses," said Mr Higgins.

**ENDS**

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