



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

**17 October 2018**

*For immediate release*

**Dangerous derelict property tax**

Labor's inept approach to business, the economy and the Darwin CBD knows no bounds.

The latest Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) figures show a 21 per cent decrease in investor loans in the Northern Territory, as we continue to trail the rest of the nation. The Territory's latest ABS Retail Turnover figures paint a similar, diabolical picture.

Leader of the Opposition, Gary Higgins said today's vacant property tax is another nail in the coffin for the Territory's economy under this hopeless Labor government.

"Burdening businesses and land owners with more costs will not turn our economy around.

"Instead, the Opposition would support measures that assist and incentivise land owners to attract new tenants. This could include rebates or tax breaks.

"Rather than dealing with anti-social behaviour, sky rocketing crime levels and a tourism and retail downturn, Territory Labor has decided to penalise property owners that are already struggling.

"The increased costs of this levy will simply be passed on to Territorians.

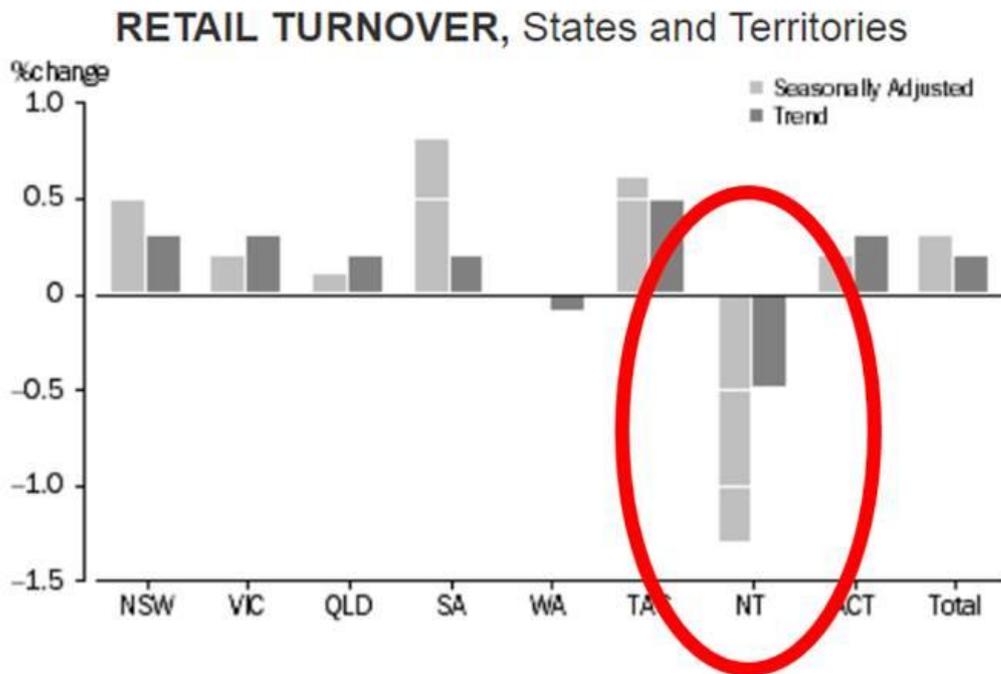
"In the Smith Street mall today, there are seven (7) vacant shop fronts, in addition to the empty properties in arcades and laneways which adjoin the mall's main thoroughfare.

"Businesses large and small are tired of Labor's dangerous and inept approach to our economy.

"Labor should instead focus on tidying up the CBD with an anti-social behaviour plan.

"This plan, as a minimum, would include better lighting and monitored CCTV, a well-resourced Police Force, compulsory treatment and rehabilitation for those with a chronic alcohol problem and a coordinated approach with service providers," said Mr Higgins.

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**ABOVE: Northern Territory trailing all other jurisdictions in the most recent ABS Retail Turnover statistics**  
 Western Australia was relatively unchanged (0.0 per cent),  
 and the Northern Territory (-1.3 per cent).

**ENDS**

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