8 June 2005

Paul Henderson
Minister for Business and Industry

**CLP’s power proposal will zap Territorians in the hip pocket**

Territorians will risk having their power bills skyrocketing under Denis Burke’s dangerous energy proposal, Business Minister Paul Henderson said today.

“You just have to look at the horrendous power price increases South Australians suffered after connecting to the National Power Grid in 1998,” said Mr Henderson.

“Power prices skyrocketed—going up 53% between 1998-99 and 2003-04—an average hike of over 10% per year.

Mr Henderson released two power bills from the same South Australian household demonstrating the increases.

“In October 2002, this typical South Australian household received a power bill for $224.43,” he said.

“Then in April 2003, that same household received a power bill for $301.16—even though they used less power during that billing period.

“That’s a whopping $77 increase in a little over six months for less power!

“South Australians now pay the highest power prices in the country.

“And Denis Burke wants to send the Territory down the same path.

“You just have to look at the CLP’s track record on power prices. When the CLP was last in government, Territorians were slugged an extra 16% on their power bills.

“And this time, he will be putting Territory power at the mercy of southern corporate interests whose only interest is profits—not Territory households.

“His plan will cost Territorians jobs, it will cost them money and it will cost Territorians control of their power system.”

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Copies of power bills attached