Terry Mills
Deputy Opposition Leader

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LABOR GORGING ON THE PUBLIC PURSE

The Territory Opposition is calling on the Henderson Government to follow the lead of the incoming Rudd Government and cut the number of jobs in Territory ministerial offices.

The Rudd Government plans to slash the number of ministerial staff from 477 positions to 334.

“Paul Henderson has inherited more than 90 staff in ministerial offices in the Northern Territory Government,” says Terry Mills, Deputy Opposition Leader.

“The comparative figures are particularly instructive – Kevin Rudd believes his Ministers should be able to service the needs of about 20 million Australians and manage a $237 billion budget with 334 ministerial support staff.

“Today, the Territory Labor Government has more than 90 ministerial staff to oversee the operation of a $3.1 billion budget servicing about 200,000 people.

“With 100 times the number of people to cater for and a budget that is 80 times larger, Federal Labor will have less than 4 times the number of political staff taking from the public purse.

“The numbers don’t add up and it’s the Territory taxpayers footing the bill for a bloated ministerial bureaucracy.

“This problem also flows into the wider NT Government public sector.

“The number of highly paid senior executives in the public service has skyrocketed under the Labor Government and the total number of public sector employees has now passed 16,000.

“Former Treasurer, Syd Stirling, admitted there was problem yet failed dismally in his stated goal of reigning in public sector numbers.

“The Opposition will bring a different attitude to Government.”
“Policy is being developed to reinforce a central purpose: public service ahead of the service of political objectives.

“I hope the new Chief Minister and his Treasurer, Delia Lawrie, will accept the challenge to pursue this goal in the interests of delivering better services for Territory families.”

Further comment: Terry Mills 04188 33594