THE sale of TIO has left Territorians angry. It has left Adam Giles and his Government at the mercy of circumstances beyond their control.

Some people overwhelmingly vote with their hip pockets. If premiums are to increase, then the judgment of voters will be harsh.

If Darwin is hit by a cyclone - or Katherine is flooded - and home-owners experience difficulty accessing their entitlements, they could make the same argument that the money is needed to fund Territory-building projects.

There are many calling for the Chief Minister’s head over the sale. It is tempting to look at his management of TIO as arrogant - or ignorant of the wishes of everyday Territorians.

But it would be equally correct to praise his conviction - to do what he believed was in our best interests despite the public backlash.

Some politicians have made reputations for the strength of their convictions. Others have become loathed for spurning popular sentiment.

What is indisputable is that this is a watershed for Giles and that his legacy is on the line. It is indisputable that he has taken a massive gamble on TIO and that the issue has turned the odds of re-election against him.

Time will tell whether it was a gamble worth taking.

...and another thing

WHITE Ribbon Day is about men saying no to domestic violence. Overwhelmingly, men commit violence in the home and women are the victims. And it’s something that must stop.

We can put any number of tough penalties in place. But things will not change until men stand up and say “no more”.

The more men who become involved in White Ribbon Day, the more chance we will have of addressing the problem of family violence.

WHAT: Lights at either end of the Rapid Creek footbridge are out. Walkers feel uncomfortable in the area at night.
WHO’S RESPONSIBLE: Transport department’s Leslie Major
CONTACT: 8924 7287

Do you know of something in the Territory that needs fixing? Give the Fixer a call on 8944 9790, email thefixer@ntnews.com.au or follow on Twitter @NTNTheFixer

Letters to the editor should be kept to 175 words or less. Send your letters to GPO Box 1000, Darwin, NT 0801, or email rntmail@ntnews.com.au. You must include your name, home address or PO Box number. Name and address will be withheld on request. The Northern Territory News reserves the right to edit letters. Responsibility is taken by the Editor, NT News, GPO Box 1500, Darwin, NT, 0801

P. M. McVean
Berrimah

ABC cuts will hurt

MARK Scott’s move to cut state and territory editions of 7.8 is a misguided response to the Government’s decision to reduce the ABC’s budget from $5.5 billion to $5.25 billion over five years.

Instead of Alyssa Betts and her team producing a weekly half hour of insight and analysis of NT affairs, some website jockey from inner-city Sydney will ply us with “extended cross-platform coverage” or so Scott tries to reassure us.

The public have long expressed concern over the progressive editorial bias of the ABC and I’ve certainly never been shy about putting the boot into Aunty, but likewise I can’t imagine a week without Vicki Kerrigan, Charlie King or The Country Hour. In particular, I think of the fair go 7.8 NT’s Betts gave my friend Tina MacFarlane in relation to the water licence issue and wonder would a Sydney-based journalist have offered the same even-handed approach?

Reducing regional-based production and services illustrates Scott’s failure to understand the ABC’s real strength lies away from the cities.

James Barlow
Nakara

**On this day in the territory**

10 YEARS AGO: The Territory Government is refusing to release the findings of a review into the crisis-torn St John Ambulance. The review, conducted by Canberra-based consultants Walter Turnbull, is understood to be scathing of the way the Territory’s ambulance service is run.

20 YEARS AGO: The NT Government was continuing to avoid requests for information in relation to State Square, Opposition Leader Brian Ede said. Mr Ede had earlier accused the Government of withholding a document on the contractual arrangements for State Square.

25 YEARS AGO: A recent change to the Traffic Act has left many drivers unsure of where they may and may not drive. Some drivers disqualified from driving are not being told they are allowed to drive on private property.