

---

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**22 May 2020**

*EMBARGOED 22 MAY*

## **Country Liberal Government will create taskforce to fast-track approvals processes**

A Country Liberal Party Government will create a taskforce, guided by an external volunteer board that will aim to halve approval timeframes for businesses and industry dealing with red tape, Opposition Leader Lia Finocchiaro said today.

If elected a CLP Government will create the can-do **Approvals Fast-Track Taskforce** that will sit within the Department of Chief Minister and focus on halving approval wait times across government, streamlining process and perform a range of specific functions, including:

- Within six months of a CLP Government, develop a detailed list of legislative and regulatory repeals and amendments that will streamline approvals processes across all NTG departments and agencies and have it presented to Cabinet for decisions.
- Perform regular spot checks of application waitlists to identify approvals impediments within various government processes.
- Work within government agencies to streamline processes, forms and decision making.
- Require CEOs to implement recommendations approved by Cabinet.
- Remove duplication of processes between departments.
- Report directly to the Chief Minister on impediment issues every quarter.

The team will be made up of technical and legal experts sourced from across government and will work collaboratively with an external volunteer advisory board of business and industry - the Approvals Fast-Track Taskforce Advisory Board (AFTAB). The taskforce will be created shortly after a new CLP Government is formed and nominations for the Board will be called for. The CEO of the Department of Chief Minister will be responsible for reporting to Cabinet and the taskforce will be built on the momentum of the Government's response to COVID-19.

"In the CLP, we know that unless you embrace business, entrepreneurship and encourage risk taking for businesses you will never realise the potential economic and job creation rewards. At the moment processes for things like mining management plans, liquor and environmental approvals, can be overly complicated, costly and time consuming," Mrs Finocchiaro said.

"Under the Gunner Government's cumbersome regime, businesses are deterred from going ahead with investment or even cancel it. Our processing timeframes are also a major deterrent on interstate and international business looking to invest in the Territory.

"Coming out of COVID-19 the Territory needs to position itself as a world leading destination for investment. The Approvals Fast-Track Taskforce will be one of the building blocks to make that happen. Whether you're supplying building materials, serving coffee or looking to invest millions of dollars, business and industry will benefit from this taskforce," Mrs Finocchiaro concluded.