
MEDIA RELEASE

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Territory Government Chief Executives must manage budgets or face consequences under Country Liberal Government

A Country Liberal Government will make it clear to Territory department and agency Chief Executives that they need to spend within their budgets or face sanctions including termination, Opposition Leader Lia Finocchiaro said today.

“A prudent Country Liberal Government will increase accountability of Chief Executives through a range of measures. We need to send a clear message that it is not acceptable to routinely run over budget,” Mrs Finocchiaro said.

A Country Liberal Government will take a range of actions, including:

- Where it’s clear a department or agency is not remaining within budget, controls on expenditure will be issued with a formal notice from the Minister.
- If necessary, closely monitored expenditure reduction plans will be implemented.
- If these measures then fail, the Government will terminate the contracts of Chief Executives who have failed to keep their department or agency within budget, with the exception of overspends that are Cabinet approved.

A clause stipulating the consequences will be included in new Chief Executive employment contracts.

“This policy goes to the heart of the Langoulant Report’s recommendations, of which a key one is strengthening ministerial and executive accountability for agency financial performance,” Mrs Finocchiaro said.

“Chief Executives need to be accountable for spending and we will drive the cultural change that’s required.

“After four years of the Gunner Government our budget is in total disrepair and our economy weak. When the Langoulant Report was delivered the Chief Minister made a lot of tough talk about holding Chief Executives to account but has done absolutely nothing to address the issue. We need to fix the budget and rebuild the economy and that starts with accountability for the spending of public money.

“These accountability measures will set a standard for how a prudent Country Liberal Government will operate,” Mrs Finocchiaro concluded.

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