

Madam Speaker Lambley took the Chair at 10 am.

VISITORS
YouthWorX

Madam SPEAKER: Honourable members, I advise of the presence in the gallery of young adults from YouthWorX accompanied by their program leaders. On behalf of honourable members, I extend a warm welcome.

Members: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT
Filming by Media

Madam SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have given permission for media outlets to record the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply speech from the Chamber floor this morning.

APPROPRIATION (2026–2027) BILL
Serial 63
TREASURY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL
Serial 64

Continued from 5 May 2026.

Ms UIBO (Opposition Leader): Madam Speaker, at a time when many Territorians are doing it tough the CLP has delivered a budget that offers no plan, vision or future for the Northern Territory. It is nothing more than a maintenance budget which fails to deliver cost-of-living relief to Territorians who are struggling to pay their bills or to address the growing housing crisis. It administers more cuts to the infrastructure budget and fails to provide a pipeline of works to keep the economy moving and our Territory businesses afloat. It offers no plan to relieve the pressures of our overburdened health system.

Territorians deserve much better than this underwhelming offering from a CLP government that is struggling to deliver what Territorians need and what matters to them the most. It is a missed opportunity that will ultimately cost Territorians in the long run.

Widespread flooding has impacted communities across the Territory after one of the most testing Wet Seasons in our history. Some people are only just returning home; some will be out of their homes and their communities for much longer; and others are taking stock of what this means for their businesses, properties and livelihoods. Our road network has taken a massive hit, and we are still coming to terms with the scale of the recovery.

Meanwhile, like other jurisdictions, we are navigating broader global issues and pressures, particularly volatile fuel costs and uncertainty in supply chains. The remoteness and vastness of the Territory means that communities, industries, businesses and households are feeling the effects of these external events to a greater degree than our Australian southern counterparts.

None of these are an excuse for a lacklustre visionless budget that misses every opportunity to build a stronger, better and fairer Territory for everyone.

I have been up and down the track talking to people from all walks of life, all sectors of the community and across business and industry sectors. You can hear in people's voices how uncertain they are about the future. They simply do not know where their work is coming from and whether they can maintain their viability and face the rising costs or keep their staff on.

I am hearing from people about housing stress. Rents have hit an all-time high in the Territory, with the median weekly house rent in Darwin at more than \$700 and \$620 in Alice Springs. People are finding it harder to cover their rent, let alone the rest of their bills, particularly the thousands of Territory households on low or moderate incomes. I am talking about our retail and hospitality staff, cleaners, childcare workers, aged-care workers and hairdressers. These Territorians are the backbone of our community and our economy.

As the number of rentals available continues to diminish, affordability continues to diminish, housing supply has stagnated and the dream of home ownership slips further away from many fellow Territorians.