

Shadow Minister for Public Employment  
**BILL YAN MLA**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**No money for teachers but free money for Optus**

The Fyles government that insisted there was no money to pay teachers a decent wage, wasted no time in handing out nearly half a million dollars to a commercial telco.

The government confirmed this week they would waive renewal fees for the 20,000 Territorian driver licences that were stolen in the Optus privacy breach.

Shadow Minister for Public Employment, Bill Yan, said it was absurd the Fyles Labor government was still digging in their heels on the pay freeze for teachers but couldn't wait to pay the bill for Optus's data breach.

“The Labor government confirmed fees would be waived without receiving any commitment from Optus to contribute to the cost,” Mr Yan said.

“Only later, in the face of public outcry, did Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics Minister Eva Lawler backflip and suggest compensation might be sought from Optus.

“But how receptive will Optus be when the Labor government has painted itself into a corner, making it a government problem rather than an Optus problem.

“The Labor government should have instead immediately gone in to bat for those 20,000 Optus customers to ensure licence renewal fees were covered wholly by Optus and not at the expense of Territory taxpayers.”

If Territorians have their licence and wallet stolen, they would have to pay a replacement fee of \$22, which would amount to \$440,000 to re-issue NT licences stolen in the Optus breach.

“If Natasha Fyles was really trying to find money to commit to teachers’ salaries, she wouldn’t be so keen to commit money to a big company’s commercial problem.

“We cannot allow this to be swept under the rug as the government preaches budget repair on one hand but gives a free pass to big business and a slap in the face for our teachers.”

**ENDS**

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