

NORTHERN TERRITORY News

Phone 82 8200

DARWIN: Wednesday, May 10, 1989

50c* (COUNTRY
55 cents)

CLASSIFIEDS: 82 8300

Blunt says 'no deal' to NT Nats

By FRANK ALCORTA

The new National Party leader, Mr Charles Blunt, has categorically denied he intends "to make a deal" with NT Nationals leader, Mr Ian Tuxworth.

The speculation arose early today after Mr Blunt said he would be holding discussions with Mr Tuxworth about the future direction of the NT National Party.

"There is no constitutional basis for a deal with Ian Tuxworth," Mr Blunt said.

"The CLP is associated with the federal National Party and this association will continue."

"It is in black and white."

Mr Blunt said he would be coming to the Territory in the near future for talks with the Chief Minister, Mr Marshall Perron, and the CLP president, Mr Shane Stone.

"On the basis of those discussions I'll have a chat with Mr Tuxworth

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Tuxy pours cold water on 'deal'

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but it will not be
predicated with doing
a deal."

"To read anything else is wrong," Mr Blunt said.

Mr Stone welcomed Mr Blunt's statement and said he expects "Mr Blunt to maintain federal policy."

"I admire Mr Tuxworth's optimism but the reality is that the CLP is associated with the federal National party."

"There will be no change to this at all," Mr Stone said.

Mr Tuxworth confirmed he would be holding talks with Mr Blunt during the latter's visit to the Territory.

However, he poured cold water on any thoughts of immediate affiliation with the National Party.

"It is not going to happen overnight," Mr Tuxworth said.

He added the CLP's disintegration "is a

natural development like childbirth — when it is time to be born it will be born."

Mr Tuxworth said he would "reinforce to Mr Blunt that the CLP candidate for the House of Representatives, Mr Bob Liddle, cannot win without our support.

"If they want to run a Territory-wide poll and it ends up showing a different result — then we'll be happy to review our position," Mr Tuxworth said.