

Poll says CLP ahead, but just

The Country Liberal Party would have won a Territory election nine days ago, but only just.

This is shown in the results of a NT-wide confidential poll conducted by the Darwin-based NT Marketing Research for the CLP.

Among the findings were:

- 42 per cent of voters said they would give the CLP their first vote.
- 21 per cent would vote ALP.
- 12 per cent said they would support the Green Independents.
- 11 per cent were undecided.
- 5 per cent went for the NT Nationals.
- 4 per cent supported others.

CLP president Shane Stone confirmed the election would have been close because most seats would have been decided on preferences.

"We have run three polls since the Wanguri by-election and they all say the same: we would have won the election but it is clear we have a lot of work ahead of us," Mr Stone said.

"The real surprise of the poll was (NT National leader) Ian Tuxworth's

By FRANK ALCORTA

low standing. Support for the Nationals has gone down from 10 per cent to 8.8 per cent and 5 per cent in the three consecutive polls."

Another major finding was the high approval rate of Chief Minister Marshall Perron at more than 50 per cent (31 per cent disapproval) against Opposition Leader Terry Smith's approval rating of 35 per cent (45 per cent disapproval).

When asked about the issues that concern Territorians most, Mr Stone said "the real issue is pocket stuff. Record interest rates and taxation are the real killers".

"Issues like Aboriginal affairs, mining and the environment also rate but nowhere near economics."

Mr Stone expressed concern that the Green Independents scored a consistently high 12 per cent.

Mr Stone said the poll also measured political intentions in the forthcoming federal election.

"It is a lineball result, with Mr Snowdon about one per cent ahead of our candidate Helen Galton."

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