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# Union seeking to cut FIFO reliance



NT Labor president Erina Early

## Early to rise in Labor ranks

CHRISTOPHER WALSH

AN INQUIRY into the continued reliance on fly-in, fly-out workers across the Northern Territory could be on the cards, if the Maritime Union of Australia get their way.

Branch secretary Thomas Mayor used the weekend's NT ALP conference to call for the inquiry.

He said given the region's bleak economic forecast, it was crucial jobs went to local workers first and he was heartened by the Labor Party's backing.

"There is not enough scrutiny on companies who make promises to promote local jobs," Mr Mayor said.

**"There is not enough scrutiny on companies who make promises to promote local jobs"**

THOMAS MAYOR

"There are a lot of genuine challenges for the NT economy coming up.

"It would be smart to identify what the impact is on wages leaving the Territory. People not living here or spending their money here, it all impacts our economy."

Mr Mayor said while the party supported the motion there was "still some discussion to have (with government) but we expect them to keep their commitments".

A government spokeswoman said labor was committed to fewer FIFO workers "and more people living and working in the Territory".

"We will work to achieve that," she said.

"We take this feedback seriously and will consider the concerns raised at this weekend's Labor conference."

No time frame for an inquiry was given.

The conference also passed an MUA motion to support the

restructuring of Work Health and Safety Authority to provide a safer workplace for maritime workers following the death of a worker in January.

Other motions that passed at the conference included condemning the federal Coalition Government for "Budget slashing" and penalty rates.

Secretary Kent Rowe said the party also reaffirmed its commitment to seeing out the inquiry into fracking.

Last week, the Government said a decision on whether to repeal the fracking moratorium would be made by Cabinet after the release of Rachel Pappas's report, expected to be completed later this year.

FORMER United Voice union branch secretary Erina Early has been named the new president of the NT Labor Party.

Labor secretary Kent Rowe said: "We are excited to announce Ms Early as the new president of Territory Labor. Erina was elected unopposed."

Ms Early was not available for comment yesterday.

She replaces outgoing president Syd Stirling, who said Ms Early would do very well.

"We got through two elections... it's time for me to relax."



Darwin actor Rob Collins and, inset, singer Jess Mauboy are both in the line-up for a Logie award

## Territory talent in Logie hunt

TWO of the Top End's hottest television talents will shine in the national spotlight, having been nominated for a swag of Logie awards.

Darwin-born Rob Collins, who hails from a Tiwi Islands heritage, yesterday received a nod for the Best New Talent award, for his work on the ABC tele-drama, *Cleverman*.

He also scored a place among the finalists for the Most Outstanding Newcomer award, also for *Cleverman*.

Territory superstar Jess Mauboy scored a nomination for Best Actress.

Collins was "absolutely thrilled" to be nominated.

"Add to be nominated in the same year as fellow Territorian Jessica Mauboy is extra special," he said. "Being a Tiwi Islander and a Territorian are two badges I wear proudly - I'll certainly be wearing them on Logie night."

The NT will also feature on the shortlist for a more serious reason, with the *Four Corners* program about alleged mistreatment at Don Dale, titled *Australia's Shame*, scoring a nomination for Most Outstanding Public Affairs Report.

The top award, the Gold Logie, could again go to *The Project* presenter Waleed Aly.

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## Trials for new Alzheimer's pill

A NEW drug to beat Australia's second biggest killer, Alzheimer's disease, will be trialled on patients within months.

The medicine, Xanamen, blocks the stress hormone cortisol to improve mental function and is being billed as the world's next blockbuster drug after it improved the mental function of mice.

Australian company Actinogen Medical will begin trials of its new Alzheimer's disease drug Xanamen on the Central Coast of NSW, as well as Sydney and Melbourne.