BECOMING A STATE WILL REQUIRE REAL LABOR

Labor Party attempts to shift responsibility for Aboriginal Affairs from the Territory Government to the Federal Government are undermining the Chief Minister’s arguments for the Territory to become a state, says the Territory Opposition.

“The Chief Minister has been stabbed in the back by the rank and file of his own party on the statehood issue,” says Terry Mills, Leader of the Opposition.

“If Territory Labor doesn’t want to accept responsibility for a third of our citizens how can it claim we are mature enough to become a state.

“Rather than attempting to push responsibility away, we need to be embracing the challenge of creating a prosperous Territory with opportunities for all.

“No doubt, in part, this call is fuelled by widespread disappointment in the performance of the Labor Government in Aboriginal affairs.

“7 years into Labor’s term in office and there has been no improvement in many of the key areas of Aboriginal affairs.

“Labor’s poor performance is all the more disappointing given the substantial increase in Government revenue during the past 7 years.

“This is a vote of no confidence in the capacity of the Chief Minister by his own people.

“Attempts to change the name of the Northern Territory Emergency Response to ‘the Special Measure in the NT’ are pointless.

“Changing labels is symptomatic of a quick fix mentality.

“The Intervention will be reviewed after 12 months and the Territory Government should be preparing for taking back responsibility for the delivery of some of the services currently being provided by the Federal Government.
“If we want to become a state we need to act like one and that means shouldering the responsibility for all our citizens.”

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