FLIMSY EXCUSE FOR FAILURE

Terry Mills MLA
Date 15th June 2010

The Chief Minister has refused to table documentation to support his claim the Northern Territory Government was opposed to the introduction of the Alliance model for delivery of Indigenous housing as part the SIHIP program.

The Chief Minister says the Labor Government vigorously opposed the implementation by the Commonwealth of the Alliance model for SIHIP.

Opposition Leader Terry Mills asked the Chief Minister on a number of occasions during this morning’s Estimates Committee hearings to table the submissions the Government made to the Commonwealth highlighting their opposition to the implementation of the Alliance model.

The Chief Minister flatly refused.

The Alliance model involves the formation of consortia of businesses, expecting cost efficiencies and the enhancement of competition for the delivery of major projects.

“The Chief Minister is trying to distance his Government from the significant failures of SIHIP,” Mr Mills said.

“The reason SIHIP has such an appalling delivery record is because of the abysmal mismanagement of the scheme by the Territory Labor Government in its very early stages.

“Besides layers of bureaucracy and consultant managers, the then Housing Minister Rob Knight was simply not up to the task of implementing SIHIP, which is why the Commonwealth stepped in and took control of the project away from the Territory.

“A consequence of that failure is that after two-and-a-half years, $200million has been spent and just 11 new houses have been built.

“If Labor opposed the Alliance model as vigorously as the Chief Minister now asserts, there would be documentation available to substantiate that claim.

“Paul Henderson however refuses to table those documents arguing, somewhat lamely, that at the time these representations were made he was neither Chief Minister nor Housing Minister.

“It’s unrealistic for him to expect Territorians will believe that as the current Chief Minister, he couldn’t instruct the agencies that made these supposed submissions to the Commonwealth to release the documentation.

“As the Chief Minister parroted during questioning today, ‘it isn’t rocket science’.

“Notwithstanding Paul Henderson’s excuses, the reality is the Alliance model was the one selected jointly with the Commonwealth for SIHIP and there was an obligation on the Territory Labor Government to make it work.

“The Government failed dismally and, as a result, there is still a chronic housing crisis in Territory Indigenous communities.”

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