MEDIA RELEASE

MINERS NEED LIMMEN AID

August 31st, 2011

Environment Minister Karl Hampton’s ambivalence about Labor Party policy should send a chill up the spine of anybody looking to start a mine or invest in the Territory.

On ABC radio this morning, Mr Hampton refused to confirm Territory Labor’s policy on the co-existence of mines in Territory national parks.

“His uncertainty and lack of clarity on Labor policy was deeply disturbing,” Ms Purick said.

“As Environment Minister, Karl Hampton should know his Government back-flipped on mining in national parks.

“Then Opposition Leader, Clare Martin, committed to prohibiting mining in national parks in the lead-up to the 2001 election, a decision that Labor in Government reneged on only months after winning office.

“The reality is mining and national parks can co-exist – and the Minister should have known this and sent out a very strong message to the industry that the Government supports mining and sound approval processes.

“Instead we heard Minister Hampton banging on about his ‘principles’ and family heritage, which are of no interest or benefit to Territorians. It isn’t about Karl Hampton, it’s about growth and regional development.

“When she was Environment Minister, Marion Scrymgour did her best to scuttle the McArthur River Mine project. Minister Hampton, who crossed the floor when Parliament voted on McArthur River, should say whether or not he supports mining in the Territory.

“Companies looking to develop parts of the proposed Limmen national park should not have due process undermined by an incompetent minister.

“Labor’s ambivalence seriously challenges the Territory’s sovereign risk and attractiveness to possible investors.”

Further comment: Kezia Purick 0407 035 976