WHO DO WE TRUST?

December 31st, 2011

Shadow Transport Spokesman, Adam Giles, says the Labor Government and Chief Minister Paul Henderson deceived Territorians about the contents of the toxic spill during this week’s train derailment near Katherine.

“Paul Henderson and Labor have had the best part of a week to acknowledge that uranium spilt into the Edith River when the train de-railed, but instead they chose to cover it up,” Mr Giles said.

“The failure to come clean reflects Paul Henderson’s absolute contempt for transparent, honest and accountable Government.

“For three days, the Chief Minister, the Environment Minister, the Department (NRETAS) and the Environment Protection Authority have covered-up this crucial fact.

“It’s inconceivable that nobody knew the true extent of the spill – and unforgivable that the details weren’t made public.

“Confronted with the news last night, the Chief Minister was finally forced to concede uranium was dumped into the river when the train went over.”

Mr Giles said the scandal raises serious questions about the effectiveness of Government regulation regarding the transportation of dangerous goods through the Northern Territory.

“Territorians rely on Government and regulatory agencies to oversee the transportation of dangerous goods in this jurisdiction,” he said.

“The events of the past week have done serious damage to the credibility of our monitoring authorities. If we can’t rely on them to give us accurate, up-to-date information about an event as serious as a uranium spill, who can we trust?”

Further comment: Adam Giles 0421 588 118