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Leader of the Opposition Delia Lawrie has done a complete u-turn about why an inquiry should not occur into a deal done by Labor on the eve of last year’s election, despite her welcoming it earlier in the day.

$3 million worth of prime CBD real estate at the Stella Maris site was gifted to Unions NT with a rent-free 10 year lease, with the option to extend a further ten years on that.

Attorney-General John Elferink said despite the Labor leader’s best attempts to undermine this important inquiry, it is needed to identify answers for the unresolved questions surrounding this issue.

“Delia Lawrie spoke utter nonsense in Parliament today claiming that every person to appear before the inquiry will require legal representation. This is simply untrue,” Mr Elferink said.

“Delia Lawrie only need read the Inquiries Act to realise that her claims don’t stack up.

“Should Delia Lawrie have done her homework prior to making these excuses, she would know that every person who is summonsed to appear before an inquiry is legally required to:

• Attend;
• Truthfully answer all questions asked to them;
• Tell the truth at all times; and
• Produce any documents requested.

“Any statement or disclosure made by a witness to an Inquiry cannot be admissible in evidence against them in any civil or criminal proceedings in any court.

“Despite the binding requirements that witnesses must adhere to, Delia Lawrie insists that every single person to appear before the inquiry needs legal representation. And the excuses keep on coming.

“Delia Lawrie could have explained Labor’s decisions long ago when this deal was first revealed, yet she has repeatedly refused to respond to the claims against her and set the record straight.

“Territorians deserve better. If Delia Lawrie and her Labor colleagues truly believe they have nothing to hide, then they can commit 100 per cent to this much needed independent inquiry.”

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