15 May 2014

LABOR CALLS FOR WATER LICENCES INQUIRY

Leader of the Opposition, Delia Lawrie, today said an independent inquiry into the granting of water licences in the Northern Territory was the only way to make sure no cronyism was occurring.

Ms Lawrie said allegations made in Parliament today added extra weight to the need for an open and independent inquiry into the process for granting water licences potentially worth millions of dollars.

“Today we learned that licences were granted before the appropriate aquifer plan had been finalised,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Two of them were to Blackbull Station owned by Magistrate Peter Maley, a former Director of the CLP slush fund, Foundation 51.

“An independent inquiry is necessary to determine if this process was above board.”

She said moreover the overall water allocation exceeded the total allocation set aside for the Ooloo Dolostone Aquifer.

“If the CLP Government has nothing to hide then they should be supporting this inquiry,” Ms Lawrie said.

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