MEDIA RELEASE

Natasha Fyles
Shadow Minister for Lands and Planning

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**CLP Can’t Be Trusted To Protect Our Environment**

The CLP have once again failed to protect our environment for refusing to prosecute breaches to environmental development guidelines, even though they promised to do so well over a year ago to date.

In April 2014, then CLP Lands and Planning Minister, Peter Chandler, said the Development Consent Authority (DCA) would pursue a legal case against a landowner who was found to have breached their development application and cleared 4ha of native vegetation.

*I cannot ask the public to have faith in the government’s planning processes if they’re not enforced when there has been a clear breach.*  
— **Then Planning Minister Peter Chandler April 2014**

In contradiction to this earlier statement, on December 4 2015, the current CLP Minister for Lands and Planning, David Tollner, has instead claimed there’s no case to be made.

*The DCA could not prepare a viable case to prosecute those responsible.*  
— **Office of Current Planning Minister David Tollner December 2015**

“This proves the CLP can’t be trusted to keep their word and they can’t be trusted to protect our environment,” said Natasha Fyles.

“Territorians deserve to know why the CLP doesn’t think there is a case here when there is a clear breach of the rules in place to protect our environment.

“The impact of this clearing will have detrimental effects to our environment and locals who will now be subject to increased risk of flooding.

“The rules are in place for a reason, but when a Government doesn’t uphold those rules, then we must ask the question what is the point of having those rules?

“David Tollner and the CLP must explain why they believe there is no case – it is not good enough to wave the issue aside.

“We saw a very similar ‘nothing to see here’ attitude when the CLP was caught-out for not implementing a critical environmental impact statement for the port at Melville Island; instead they chose to argue that it was not a port. The CLP can’t be trusted to keep their word or protect our environment.”

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