MEDIA RELEASE

Natasha Fyles
SHADOW MINISTER FOR LANDS & PLANNING

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CLP CAN’T GOVERN ITSELF AS GILES LOSES CONTROL ON PLANNING

Chief Minister Adam Giles has lost control of his Government with unaccountable Cabinet colleagues ‘freestyling’ on planning and land use issues, Shadow Lands and Planning Minister Natasha Fyles said today.

“Both Dave Tollner and Gary Higgins have decided to ignore normal ministerial protocols and ‘freestyle’ their way through this key area of government responsibility,” Ms Fyles said today.

“CLP Minister Gary Higgins has decided to break Cabinet solidarity and campaign with Independent MLAs against the Government’s proposed Litchfield sub-regional land use plan.

“The key question is whether or not Gary Higgins excused himself from the deliberations around the Cabinet table. If Gary Higgins was so outraged by this decision he should remove himself from Cabinet and the Government and campaign against it. His decision lacks accountability and transparency.

“Speaker Kezia Purick had the integrity to quit the CLP over planning issues.

“Minister Tollner has been running loose and wild with planning decisions. His decisions are also unaccountable and made without transparency.

“His proposal to abolish the Development Consent Authority and to channel all planning responsibility to the NT Planning Commission is a major change to Government policy made with no consultation.

“His proposal is a recipe that could promote unseen backroom deals, which is typical of Minister Tollner’s preferred method of operation. The rejection of the Heritage Board’s recommendation to list the Kulaluk leases springs to mind as a recent example.

“Dave Tollner’s preferred method of operation is to shy away from public scrutiny and to make decisions he doesn’t even try to explain. Mr Tollner has no ongoing interest in the Territory’s ordered development. He just wants to trash everything before he leaves politics.

“It’s clear Adam Giles has got a problem. His Ministers are ignoring him and doing whatever they want.

“Adam Giles just can’t be trusted to ensure the Cabinet runs in the Territory’s interests when it comes to key planning and land use decisions.”

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