A TIME TO LOOK OVER THE HORIZON

“The Territory remains a place of great opportunity although it is also a place where many challenges of national significance are confronted,” says Terry Mills, Leader of the Opposition.

“That is why we need skilled, passionate and effective parliamentarians.

“What ever view one takes of the capacity of the new cabinet, the fact remains that what we see now can be changed at the next Territory election.

“It is the articulation and implementation of a vision that will result in benefits for every Territorian that remains the ultimate purpose of government.

“It’s fair to say Territory Labor has failed to develop such a vision for all Territorians.

“Today’s cabinet reshuffle offers little hope that this Government’s capacity to articulate a view for all Territorians is going to improve.

“Saddling the most junior member of Cabinet with two of the most contentious portfolios in the Territory – Local Government and Central Australia - indicates the lack of depth and commitment in the Henderson Cabinet.

“The new Minister will have just a few days to prepare for the introduction of the Bill for the controversial Local Government amalgamations.

“Pulling the Top End Shire out of the Local Government amalgamations resolves the most pressing political pain bit still leaves considerable policy challenges.

“Equally, the failure of the Chief Minister to take the portfolio for Central Australia indicates he isn’t willing to live up to his words.

“Had the Chief Minister taken up the challenge of being the Minister for Central Australia his claims to be vitally interested in the plight of Alice Springs would have credibility – today they don’t.

“The fact the Chief Minister now has 3 Ministers taking responsibility for different sections of a single department also indicates a lack of clear thinking.

“One minister per department produces optimum public service efficiency– having Ministers Knights, Vatskalis and Bonson in charge respectively of Local Government, Housing and Sport is plain wasteful.”

Further comment : Terry Mills 0418 833 594