MEDIA RELEASE

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INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR BRAINTLING

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NT ELECTION CANDIDATES SHOULD HAVE THE SAME RULES

“In the February sittings, Parliament will debate legislation I have introduced to treat all NT election candidates equally”, says Loraine Braham, Independent Member for Braitling.

"I am asking for three simple changes".

"Firstly, that all candidates (in a party or not) must lodge a financial disclosure return showing how much was spent on their campaign".

"Currently, reporting agents have to disclose details of election expenditure. In practice, Independent candidates give these details but political parties just give a total figure for all their candidates".

"I believe Territorians have a right to know how much political parties are spending on their candidates in each electorate".

"The second change is to make the threshold for anonymous donations the same for independents as it is for party candidates".

"At the moment, parties can receive up to $1,000 anonymously but the amount is only $200 for independent candidates. This is an unnecessary discrimination against independents".

"The last change is to allow the Electoral Commission to hold ballot paper position draws at the most appropriate place. Lately we have seen draws for regional electorates held in Darwin".

Mrs Braham says her proposals bring equity to our system and asks whether the Government or Opposition will give their support.

"If they believe in equality and transparency in our democratic system, they will endorse the changes".

"But if they are tied by party policies, they won't".

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