28 October 2008

Opposition Makes A Mockery of Parliament

The Opposition will continue to make a mockery of the Northern Territory Parliament tomorrow after listing a ridiculous 15 items for debate.

Leader of Government Business Delia Lawrie said the Opposition is trying to turn parliament into a farce.

“The Opposition is making a mockery of the Parliament – it’s the height of arrogance to treat Territorians this way,” Ms Lawrie said.

“It’s impossible to fully debate 15 items in one day and the Opposition knows that.

“Normally such items, which include changes to Northern Territory laws and the establishment of parliamentary committees, could each be worthy of hours of debate.

“Obviously proper debate on so many items cannot be squeezed into one day – it’s another attempt at a stunt to make a mockery of Parliament.

“The Government will not support this continued contempt of Parliament.

“The Opposition has months to prepare for its General Business Day – if it can’t organise one day how can it ever expect to run the Territory.

“Last week the Member for Port Darwin repeatedly interjected on proceedings, in what appeared to be a deliberate attempt to be kicked out of the Chamber, which eventually happened.

“Today the Member for Fong Lim moved a motion of dissent against the Speaker for no good reason, causing question time to be cut short.
“It's ironic the Opposition was indulging in such behaviour on the same day as the Government was announcing three extra sitting days per year and video streaming of Parliament.”

Today’s announcement builds on the Henderson Government’s parliamentary reforms to introduce four year terms, whistleblowers’ legislation, a legislated code of conduct and a modernised register of MLAs’ interests.

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