ATTORNEY GENERAL MUST EXPLAIN

The scandal around the Attorney General, Delia Lawrie’s, interference in the prosecution of Red Rooster has deepened with the revelations that the company has long standing connections to the Labor Party and a former Labor Minister directed the business to operate without a permit.

The Julalikari Council, which has very strong connections to the Labor Party, are part owners of the Red Rooster franchise in Tennant Creek.

The Opposition has also obtained an email from former Labor Minister, Elliott McAdam, demanding that the prosecution of Red Rooster be dropped and admitting he had advised the business to trade without the compliances when he was the local member.

“The fact the Attorney General interfered in a case against a business with connections to the Labor Party must be the subject of a judicial investigation,” says John Elferink, Manager of Opposition Business.

“Mr McAdam was the Chair of Julalikari before entering Parliament and admits in the email he advised Red Rooster to break the law.

“Given the Territory doesn’t have an ICAC for investigations into official corruption, these matters must be dealt with by a judicial inquiry.

“Mr McAdam’s email also claims he repeatedly raised the issue of building certification with the Minister. The Attorney General omitted this fact when detailing why she had interfered in the prosecution of Red Rooster.

“I note nowhere in the various interviews conducted by the Attorney General and the Chief Minister since this scandal broke has either mentioned the Labor Party connections to this case.

“I also note that the Chief Minister sought to distance himself from the scandal on Stateline by claiming the decision to drop the case was not a Cabinet decision. That denial is despite the fact the matter was discussed by Cabinet.

“We now have a picture of events that demand a judicial inquiry.
“The Attorney General interfered in a prosecution of a business with connections to the Labor Party and then deliberately mislead Parliament about her actions.”

Further comment: John Elferink 0418 406 400