ABATTOIR SHOULD STAY CLOSED

The lack of stability and certainty that surrounds the Henderson Government has again been highlighted by the latest demand from Independent MLA Gerry Wood.

Shadow Primary Industry Minister, Willem Westra van Holthe, said the Government should immediately dismiss Gerry Wood’s call for taxpayer funds to re-establish the defunct Litchfield Abattoir.

“It’s a sign of the Henderson Government’s weakness that the Chief Minister would even contemplate such a proposal,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“Paul Henderson’s so cowed by the prospect of losing Government he’s basically forced into a corner every time Gerry Wood has a thought bubble about development in the rural area.”

Mr Westra van Holthe said it isn’t the Government’s job to subsidise failed businesses.

“This business went belly-up two years ago and the Government has already refused to put up equity to bank-roll its refinancing,” he said.

“The job of Government is to provide the vital infrastructure like roads, power, water and other services that allow businesses to operate on a level playing field.

“Another role of Government is to work with private enterprise to identify and address impediments to economic development.
“Instead of using taxpayers’ money to subsidise a failed abattoir, the Henderson Government should be working closely with private company, Teys Brothers, who are considering re-opening the Katherine abattoir.

“How about the Government lobby the Northern Land Council to lift road train restrictions through parts of Arnhem Land to facilitate the efficient movement of buffalo, a resource that might well see the Katherine Abattoir re-open”?

“In the meantime, Paul Henderson should show some strength and leadership and say no to Gerry Wood.”

Further comment: Willem Westra van Holthe 0414 778 430