PETER CHANDLER
SHADOW ENVIRONMENT MINISTER
MEDIA RELEASE

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PARKS AUSTRALIA, PLEASE EXPLAIN

The Henderson Government must seek a ‘please explain’ from Parks Australia North about its plan to downgrade its senior administrative position in the Northern Territory.

Shadow Environment Minister Peter Chandler understands that when the current Assistant Secretary of Parks Australia North, Anne-Marie Delahunt, leaves the Territory later this year, the local position will be down-graded.

Mr Chandler said it appears Parks Australia North’s senior administrator will now be based in Canberra, despite the position having been based in the Territory for the past 20 years.

This means now the director of National Parks and the second in charge of the Northern Territory’s two Commonwealth parks will now be based in Canberra.

“Parks Australia North should explain exactly what’s going on regarding its senior management in the Northern Territory,” Mr Chandler said.

“And the Territory’s Environment Minister, Karl Hampton, should reveal what he knows regarding Parks Australia North and whether he thinks this administrative down-grade in the Territory is acceptable.”

Mr Chandler said the Minister should ask Parks Australia North why the Territory is being sidelined.

“Does the Minister think Parks Australia North will do a better job managing Uluru and Kakadu from Canberra?” Mr Chandler said.
“Parks Australia North often appears remote and out-of-touch – down-grading its Territory administration will only add to that perception – if not confirm it as reality.

“There is plenty of evidence to suggest Kakadu, one of the world’s great natural tourist attractions, is under-performing and that Parks Australia North is happy to let it remain under utilised.

“This was on display this week when key park attractions Twin and Jim Jim falls were closed in advance of the Wet with hardly a drop of rain falling.

“And last week, we had the Director of Parks Australia, Peter Cochrane, refusing to tell a Senate Committee exactly what his organisation plans to do regarding visitors climbing Uluru.

“Territory tourism operators, stakeholders and tourists deserve to know exactly what’s happening regarding the on-going management of Parks Australia North.”

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