COUNTRY LIBERALS
MEDIA RELEASE

HOT-AIR HENDO’S GOT THE WRONG MAN

David Tollner MLA

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The Chief Minister’s huffing and puffing over the development of a nuclear waste facility in the Territory is all hot air – unless he can convince his Labor Party mates in Canberra to reverse the decision.

Shadow Business Minister, David Tollner, said Paul Henderson’s rantings on the issue and attacks on the Country Liberals are disingenuous because he lacks the bottle to take on the Federal Labor Government.

“This is a battle between Hendo and Kevin Rudd. At worst, the Country Liberals and I can now only be described as opinionated bystanders in the nuclear waste issue,” Mr Tollner said.

“Paul Henderson doesn’t seem to have cottoned on that he should be targeting his Federal Labor colleagues, most notably Kevin Rudd and Martin Ferguson – instead he wants to flap on about what the Country Liberals have said when faced with Commonwealth legislation.

“Territory Labor has been virtually silent on the subject of the nuclear waste facility since Kevin Rudd won office.

“Before that, he spent the best part of a million dollars on an anti-nuclear waste facility campaign targeting the former Coalition Government and me in particular, as the Member for Solomon.”

“If he’s fair-dinkum in his Opposition to this he should commit to campaigning against Labor at the next Federal election and he should outline how he will take the Commonwealth to court to enforce the Territory legislation banning the transportation of nuclear waste through the Territory.

“This second option seems unlikely, given all the talk suggests that while Federal Labor will repeal the Coalition’s legislation, it will introduce new laws that will over-ride the Territory’s legislation.

“In other words, we will be in exactly the same situation as we are now.”

Mr Tollner said threats by the Chief Minister to take this matter back to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) is disingenuous and water off a duck’s back.

“After all, both the South Australian and Western Australian governments walked away from hosting a nuclear waste facility – and the other jurisdictions won’t have a bar of it either.

“To save their own political skins those Labor states pushed a dump on the Territories.

“Additionally, the High Court set the precedent which allows the states to completely reject any such discussion.

“Paul Henderson’s now got to match his rhetoric with action – and it’s a safe bet he’s not up to the task.”

Further comment: David Tollner 0414 690 109