The announcement today that the MacDonnell Shire has withdrawn its services to the Mutitjulu community is another damning indictment of the Territory Government and its failures when it comes to rolling out community services in the bush, Shadow Minister for Local Government Willem Westra van Holthe said today.

"Local government reform under Labor has once again been revealed as a shambles and a shemozzle," says Willem Westra van Holthe.

"For the sake of the 400 residents of Mutitjulu, Local Government Minister Malarndirri McCarthy must resolve this Government stuff up immediately.

In 2006, then Minister Elliot McAdam drew a line in the sand when it came to local government responsibility for Mutitjulu. He said:

Mutitjulu "does not have a local government status under our Northern Territory Local Government Act" and "is currently not the responsibility of the NT Government".

"It is astounding that after 4 years and the introduction of the lamentable reforms to local government that Mutitjulu continues to be in limbo," says Mr Westra van Holthe.

Either the town was and is the responsibility of the Commonwealth, or its one of the shires. In either case, it’s the Territory government that should know and is responsible for ensuring the residents receive basic services.

"Little wonder former Minister McAdam resigned from the hopeless Henderson Government."

"The neglect of this high profile community in the shadow of Uluru contributed to the demise of Clare Martin in 2007. In 2010, a lack of leadership sees the community at Mutitjulu continuing to suffer."

Further comment: Willem Westra van Holthe 0414 778 430