CONFUSED ABOUT MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Willem Westra van Holthe MLA

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The Henderson Government’s attempts to blame the death of 800 head of livestock at Mataranka Station on confusion between the departments of Local Government and Primary Industry defy common sense.

Shadow Minister for Local Government, Willem Westra van Holthe, said this latest excuse by Labor is a blatant attempt to duck-shove responsibility for the tragedy to the departments.

“It’s a shameless response by the Labor Government to avoid ministerial responsibility,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“It’s inconceivable there could have been any confusion about where responsibility for animal welfare issues lay because it’s clearly stated on the departmental websites (see attached).

Only two years ago the Animal Welfare Branch successfully prosecuted over the death of 1500 goats in the Territory, yet the Government is trying to suggest the AWB doesn’t understand its role.

“The only confusion is in the Government’s understanding of the concept of ministerial responsibility. Five days since the Ombudsman’s report was tabled in Parliament, no Government Minister has commented on the tragic events at Mataranka.”

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