MEDIA RELEASE

HAMPTON ABANDONS ALICE SPRINGS AGAIN

January 22nd, 2012

Member for Braitling, Adam Giles, has condemned the absence of the Minister for Central Australia during another summer of crisis in Alice Springs.

Mr Giles described as disgraceful the decision by Karl Hampton to again go missing, this time while the economy is flat-lining and many businesses are struggling to stay afloat.

“Karl Hampton should be fighting for Alice Springs businesses, but it’s been some time since he or any Government Minister has been in town addressing the issues.

“During last summer’s crime surge the Minister for Central Australia left us in the lurch and again this year he is nowhere to be seen.

“While it’s general knowledge the Henderson Government has abandoned Alice Springs, there’s no excuse for the Minister to play that game as well.

“Once again it is left to the Country Liberals to champion the cause of Alice Springs because the Government has turned away.

“The list of businesses closing grows in line with the decline in business confidence in the town. Alice Springs is struggling with the lack of Government infrastructure investment, tourism marketing and ongoing crime problems.

“This month’s shutdown of Bojangles comes on top of the closure of Centrebet, the Red Cross, Rivers, GD McGees, Private Hire Taxis, the Airport Shuttle Bus, Sussans, a newsagent, galleries, travel agent and the downsizing of many businesses like Mbantua Gallery.

“On top of this Government positions are also being wound back.

“We continue to hear about infrastructure contracts going to companies outside Central Australia or the Territory and while it is a free market, Labor isn’t assisting local businesses to improve their tendering practices to help them win contracts.

“As well, works done by interstate contractors aren’t being adequately inspected for quality. Maybe Alice Springs contractors are dearer because they do the job properly and don’t cut corners.

“There are currently no major projects in Alice Springs and no plans in the
pipeline for any additional tourism infrastructure.

“The prolonged silence by the Government and Minister shows they have no answers to the slump that’s bringing business operators to their knees.”

Further comment: Adam Giles 0421 588 118