WAY TO GO, JAN!

Terry Mills MLA

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The Legislative Assembly will lose almost 30 years of experience – and a significant slice of good humor – when long time staffer Jan Sporn retires this week.

Opposition Leader Terry Mills said Jan’s retirement is the end of an era which began soon after Self Government and saw her talents employed in a number of roles in and outside the Parliament.

“Jan spent seven years as Electorate Officer to Casuarina MLA Nick Dondas before accepting his offer to become Secretary to the Speaker when he assumed the chair in 1989,” Mr Mills said.

“She became Executive Officer to new Speaker Terry McCarthy from 1994 and also served as Parliament House Functions Coordinator for many years.

“Jan was appointed the director of the 21st Commonwealth Parliamentary Small Countries Conference and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Executive Committee Meeting held in Darwin in 2001.

“Under the auspices of the Australian Commonwealth Parliamentary Education Trust, Jan travelled to the Pacific Island of Niue to conduct a training program with the emerging democracy’s Parliamentary officers.

“Between 2001 and 2009, Jan served as director of the Assembly’s Parliamentary Relations and Education Unit and in 2010 she coordinated the 41st Conference of Presiding Officers and Clerks from the Australian and Pacific Regions in Darwin.

“Jan has been a constant in the Parliament for many years and her knowledge of the Assembly’s processes has been a great assistance to me and many of my colleagues.

“Her capacity, enthusiasm and sense of fun have been a feature of the ‘new’ Parliament House and will be sadly missed. I wish Jan and husband Stuart all the best in the years ahead.”

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 833 594