MEDIA RELEASE

HIGH AND DRY

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Resources Minister Kon Vatskalis should be embarrassed at his evasiveness over the nature of exploration licenses issued by the Government for land around the proposed site for the Warrai Dam.

Shadow Resources Minister and Deputy Opposition Leader, Kezia Purick said the Minister is looking foolish with his denials about the nature of exploration permits that his Government approved.

“The company which has the exploration permit in the Warrai has the word ‘Uranium in its parent company’s title,” Ms Purick said.

“I’d have thought that would have provided the Minister with a clue as to the commodity that the company is seeking”.

“In addition, under recent changes to the Mining Act, applicants for exploration licenses must provide a geological appraisal including details of the commodity or commodities sought.”

Ms Purick said as well as the Minister’s credibility, issues surrounding the issuing of the exploration license raise questions about the Territory’s long-term water security.

“Warrai Dam was earmarked many years ago as a future site to meet the Top End’s water needs and the Labor Government has failed to identify a credible alternative source,” she said.

“If the Government and PowerWater have an alternative water catchment or water supply then they must tell Territorians.

“It could take up to 15 years for a new dam to be ready and given Labor’s miserable planning record, I am concerned the Government is leaving us all in the high and dry.

“In addition, the Labor Government is failing to provide the exploration applicant with proper certainty.”

Further comment: Kezia Purick 0407 035 976