A VICTORY FOR COMMON SENSE

November 30th, 2011

The Country Liberals have welcomed the decision to revise the date for the delegates’ election to the Northern Territory Constitutional Convention.

Opposition Leader, Terry Mills and Deputy Leader, Kezia Purick said the Country Liberals are proud to support the enabling legislation which will see the Constitutional Convention staged, as planned, after next year’s Territory election.

“The Territory is on track – with community support – to become the Federation’s seventh state,” Mr Mills said.

“This is a welcome step on the long road to obtaining equivalent rights as the other six states in the Commonwealth.

“The Country Liberals believe Statehood is too important to be held in conjunction with local government elections and in the shadow of the 2012 Territory poll.

“The first statehood referendum in 1998 failed because the processes were flawed and the whole community was not engaged and involved.”

Ms Purick said the Country Liberals will push for the Constitutional Convention election to be held as soon as possible after the 2012 Territory poll.

“The Country Liberals led the Territory’s push for Self Government back in 1978 and since then have championed Statehood,” she said.

“I find it disturbing that Territory residents lack the same rights as those in other states and that despite recent reforms, the Commonwealth can still over-ride our laws.

“The passage of today’s legislation ensures the next Territory Government will be able to proceed with a push for Statehood, no matter its political shade.

“I want to congratulate members on today’s vote and look forward to working with the community to realise the Statehood dream.”

Further comments: Terry Mills 0418 833 594
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