MEDIA RELEASE
MISLEADING FROM THE FRONT

November 29th, 2011

The lack of legitimacy surrounding the Government’s Kenbi Land Trust Bill has reached new depths, with the Chief Minister’s admission he misled the house during its passage through Parliament last week.

Shadow Lands and Planning Minister, David Tollner, said the Chief Minister provided the wrong answer to a question during the Committees phase on whether the Larrakia Development Corporation is named in the Kenbi in-principle agreement or heads of agreement.

The Chief Minister’s denial was emphatic:

‘No. The answer is no, they are not named in any documentation’.

“Whether deliberately or by accident, the Chief Minister misled the House during debate on this very important piece of legislation,” Mr Tollner said.

“The Bill was passed last week, in part on the back of that wrong information. That makes this Bill invalid.

“During this morning’s sittings, the Opposition gave the Chief Minister an opportunity to recall the Kenbi Land Trust Bill to Parliament for extra scrutiny by Committees.

“The Government, aided and abetted by Independent Gerry Wood, refused to recall the Bill, further trashing its legitimacy in the process.

“Had the Chief Minister provided the correct answer in the first place, I would certainly have had a number of other questions in relation to the Larrakia Development Corporation’s involvement in the Kenbi development.

“Larrakia Development Corporation is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Northern Land Council and the silence and lack of transparency surrounding its selection as preferred Kenbi developer deserves considerable further scrutiny.

“The Government rushed the Kenbi legislation through the Parliament with no disclosure and a lack of public consultation – and now it’s been caught red handed not telling the truth.

“The Kenbi claim is a considerable portion of public land – and Territorians deserve transparency and accountability in how it’s developed.

“Labor’s secrecy and trickiness stands condemned.”

Further comment: David Tollner 0414 690 109