GOVERNMENT MUST ACT ON DEBRIS

MEDIA RELEASE

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Member for Katherine, Willem Westra van Holthe, said the Government should move swiftly to prevent widespread public access to groceries spilled after the train derailment at Edith River Bridge.

Mr Westra van Holthe said now that the location of the grocery items, including alcohol, is public knowledge, WorkSafe or another Government agency should prevent any further incursions into the area until they are removed.

“It’s a dangerous site with broken glass and other hazards in the areas around the bridge, not to mention crocodiles in and around the water,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“Now that details of the groceries have been made public, the Government should minimise the risks to members of the public trying to salvage some of the items.

“Over the past few weeks, grocery items have washed down the river and created an unsightly mess along one of the Territory’s signature rivers.

“The Government has also been remiss in its response to pollution concerns caused by products such as shampoos and soaps that spilled out when the train derailed.

“Where is the Environment Department and the EPA who are charged with monitoring and controlling the pollution?

“Rather than playing a regulatory role, Government appears to have taken a back seat in the clean-up and is happy to absolve responsibility to the railway’s owners.

“With the Henderson Government if it’s out of sight, it’s out of mind.”

(See photos attached)

Further comment: Willem Westra van Holthe 0414 778 430