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CLP creating uncertainty for Shires

Local Government Minister, Malarndirri McCarthy has slammed the Country Liberals for their irresponsible announcement to break up local government shires.

“It is irresponsible of Terry Mills to place such uncertainty on shires, their communities and on the jobs of 2,500 shire employees,” said Minister McCarthy.

“I applaud the Mayors and Presidents and the Councillors of the Shires who have made a strong commitment to improve the lives of their constituency.

“The CLP had almost three decades to improve the third tier of democracy and service delivery in the bush.

“Instead they preferred to invest in expensive legal action against Aboriginal people on Aboriginal land which is the land that the Shires are largely operating.

“Let’s not forget this is the core DNA of the CLP, fighting land and sea rights, which is at the heart of Aboriginal identity, culture and country.

“The Henderson Labor Government respectfully works with all people across the Northern Territory to build a better future with opportunities for all.

“The CLP’s rejection of genuine investment in the regions is clear: they call the Shires toxic and all the Aboriginal communities across the Northern Territory ‘Hell holes’.

“It is astounding that the CLP can place the pressure on our regions by demanding they find a sustainable financial model, when we have established an expert Taskforce to do exactly that.”

The Shires Financial Sustainability Taskforce is Co-Chaired by Roper Gulf Mayor Tony Jack and Barkly Shire President Barb Shaw. Other members include:

- Mr Damien Ryan, President, Local Government Association of the Northern Territory
- Ms Olga Havnen, NT Coordinator General for Remote Services
- Mr Brian Gleeson, Australian Government Coordinator General for Remote Indigenous Services
- Ms Margaret Reynolds, board member Australian Centre for Excellence in Local Government
- Mr Ronald Lami Lami, local board member from Minjilang
- Ms Roslyn Frith, local board member from Kalkarindji
- Mr Ken Davies, Chief Executive, Department Housing, Local Government, Regional Services

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