MEDIA RELEASE
Ken Vowles
Shadow Minister for Tourism

7 September 2012

Tourism at risk under CLP Plans

The CLP Government’s plan to move the bulk of Tourism NT to Alice Springs lacks detail and will jeopardise the Territory’s vital tourism industry.

Shadow Tourism Minister Ken Vowles said the CLP Government has lots of questions to answer.

“Chief Minister Terry Mills promised transparency and accountability, yet he did not announce these plans prior to the election,” Mr Vowles said.

“This will not attract one extra tourist or tourism dollar and puts one of the Territory’s biggest industries at risk.

“Tourism accounts for 10 per cent of the Territory’s economy and around 16,000 jobs and this move will put jobs on the line.

“The CLP Government has to outline what consultation they have done with peak tourism bodies like Tourism Top End and businesses.

“Moving the department seems to be based on meeting the political demands of the Central Australian Ministers rather than driving good outcomes for tourism.

“Tourism across Australia is facing tough times with the high Australian dollar and the economic uncertainty in Europe and the USA, so moving the department is not the answer.

“We have talented staff working in Tourism NT who appear to have no choice but to up and move their families to Alice Springs if they want to keep their job.

“The cost to move a department to Alice Springs will also be significant,” Mr Vowles said.

Media contact: Nicole Manison 0448 693 279