Consultation or Dictation?

Shadow Minister for Mines and Energy Kon Vatskalis today condemned the CLP for consulting with the mining industry over their new taxes after the decision had been made.

The CLP Government has written to the mining industry asking them to provide feedback on the new taxes - taxes that have already been introduced into parliament and are due to begin July 1 2013.

“It is farcical that the CLP introduced the new taxes into parliament, locked them into the budget but now say they will consult with the mining industry on a decision that has already been made,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“Consultation after a decision has been made is not consultation, its dictation.

“Mining is the biggest industry in the Territory and the CLP are treating them like fools. Its little wonder then that the industry have stated the CLP is closed for business.

“Some of the biggest companies in the world have contacted CLP Ministers in an effort to find out about the new taxes but phone calls were not returned.”

At a recent briefing the CLP Government could not even explain to mining companies whether their new taxes applied to exploration as well as mining.

“The CLP sacked the former head of mining Richard Galton, paid him out, and later reemployed him again on the Pastoral Lands Board,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“It is this level of incompetence that has the mining sector saying the CLP have little to no understanding of their industry.”

Media Contact: Gino Luglietti 0401 119 794