My topic today is “40 YEARS +/- CRISIS or CHALLENGE”

It is customary to acknowledge Indigenous Recognition today when we think about our history as a community. For over 40,000 years (or 1,000 ‘forty-year generation periods’) aboriginal members of our community have held “Old Man Rock” or “Nungalinya” (as it is known by them) offshore at Casuarina with special regard. ‘Nungalinya’ supposedly has influenced earthquakes, storms and cyclones which may have been provoked by human actions or failures.

Essentially, by comparison today, I am going to be specifically dealing with the last generation of forty years from a Northern Territory political storm’s perspective, and at the outset, I would remind you that there have only been a total of 6 ‘generations’ of subsequent settlement since 1788 when population centres, other than aboriginal communities, were established at Sydney Cove and elsewhere in Australia. (The Dutch may have previously weathered the northern and western coastlines of Australasia, and the Macassans (from Indonesia) harvested trepan, but they didn’t stay to exert political influence).

So now let me turn to the scene with which we are familiar.

First up let me ask all members of Central Council a series of important political questions:

1. ARE THERE GOOD LESSONS AND BAD HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 40 YEARS OF NORTHERN TERRITORY HISTORY FOR THE COUNTRY-LIBERALs?
2. CONVERSELY AND SERIOUSLY, WHAT’S IN STORE IN POLITICS FOR THE NEXT 40 YEARS?
3. HAVE WE MANAGED THE NORTHERN TERRITORY WELL FOR 40 YEARS?
4. AFTER 40 YEARS, IS A MID-LIFE CRISIS UPON US? NORMALLY WHEN YOU GET TO BE 40 YOU ARE CALLED “MIDDLE-AGED”, DOES THE CLP SEEM WARY OF CHANGE, PARTICULARLY GENERATIONAL CHANGE? - AND DOES LIFE REALLY ‘BEGIN AT 40’?
5. WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR THE COUNTRY-LIBERALs? AFTER 40 YEARS HAS THE CENTRAL COUNCIL (OF THE COUNTRY-LIBERALs) GOT ANY MEANINGFUL CLOUT?
6. ON YOUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY WHAT DO YOU CELEBRATE?
These are important questions because over the next 12 months there are several dates that could lay claim to being the 40th Anniversary of the (Country-Liberal) Party, and coupled with the recent re-election of our party to Government in the Northern Territory, such reviews are both timely and fundamentally necessary if we are to face the future with vision, correctness and commitment on behalf of the whole Northern Territory community.

Before I flesh out those 6 questions in more detail a short potted history of the Northern Territory is necessary:

- In the **first generation (1788-1828)** of European/New South Wales settlement nothing much happened, other than mapping & exploration ventures etc, in Northern Australia
- Various small isolated settlements were set up from 1840 onwards, in the **second generation (1829-1868)**, - Port Darwin was named in 1839, and South Australia took over administration in 1863 (power which it retained until 1911)
- The first major capital works project ‘The Overland Telegraph Line’ was constructed in an amazing 2 years (1870-1872) and Industries in Cattle, Pearls & Mining started in 1870 –with a Gold Rush from 1872-1890. The **third generation (1869-1908)** also saw the Surveying of Greater-Darwin town allotments for previously agreed land sales, and the commencement of the Central Australian Railway in 1885 (although this project wasn’t finally completed for 118 years until 2003 after major periods of no activity!). Historically women received the right to vote in SA/NT in 1894.
- During the **fourth generation (1909-1948)** the Commonwealth accepted political responsibility in 1911. There were Race Riots (‘Australians v Foreigners’) in 1916, and a Rebellion against the Administrator (Dr Gilruth) in 1918. The developing Aviation Age significantly patronised Darwin from 1919-1939. Of course World War I, The Great Economic Depression, and World War II (including the Bombing of Darwin & other North Australian communities) were major disasters in this era. Church missionaries provided limited support to Aboriginal communities.
- The **fifth generation (1949-1988)** saw a lot of political developments – in 1949 a Conservative Independent MP (Adair Blain) concluded a 15 year term with limited voting rights in the House of Representatives (including War service & as a POW). Blain had been preceded as MHR by Harold Nelson Snr (1922-1934) and was succeeded by his son, Jock Nelson (1949-1966), both from the ALP. Sam Calder subsequently served as the Territory MHR with full voting rights and with Country Party and then Country-Liberal support from 1966-1980.
• In the Northern Territory, the Legislative Council underwent a number of changes and was replaced with a fully-elected Legislative Assembly in 1974 (in which the fledgling Country Liberal Party won 17 of 19 seats, one of them being our first aboriginal MLA Hyacinth Tungatalum/another mine in Fannie Bay!). Cyclone Tracy devastated Darwin in 1974 resulting in a massive reconstruction and financing effort and the disruption of about 20,000 families. Constitutional development was enhanced when the NT received Senate representation in 1975 (-the CLP’s Bernie Kilgariff and Ted Robertson for the ALP). The Aboriginal Land Councils were established in 1976 leading to a fundamental focus on Human and Indigenous Rights. Self-Government was achieved in 1978.

• Resulting and stimulated economic development was centred in Mining (Bauxite/Uranium/Manganese/Gold), Primary Industry & Fisheries (including the Humpty Doo Rice & Tipperary projects), Tourism (in Central Australia & Kakadu) and Public Administration. Proudly, the Country Liberal Party held office in the NT for 27 consecutive years.

• We are now more than half-way through the current sixth generation (1989-2028) which has been importantly influenced by the formation in 1989 of the successful Northern Territory (now Charles Darwin) University. Other achievements have been in the development of profitable Oil & Gas fields, expanded Tourism facilities and local significant management challenges in Aboriginal Education, Community standards and Indigenous Political involvement. The North-South Railway was finally completed, and many major Defence facilities throughout the Northern Territory, including the Joint Intelligence Facility at Pine Gap, have been firmly established and were crucial when East Timor erupted in 1999 in our immediate international region. I was elected to the Senate in 1987 and held office until 2001, the last 6 years as a Ministerial-Parliamentary Secretary, and Nigel Scullion has subsequently held office since, including Ministerial office and party-leadership positions. David Tollner and today Natasha Griggs have very effectively carried the Country Liberal torch in the House of Representatives.

We are fortunate that philosophic leadership in the Western World was led for so much of this time (my defined 5th & 6th generations) by (the late President) Ronald Regan (in the USA) and (the late Baroness) Margaret Thatcher (in the UK). In fact, it was Mrs Thatcher’s vision which inspired us when she said: ......“Enough!”...... and concentrated on a re-statement internationally of ......“freedom to worship, speak, associate, vote, establish political Parties, start businesses, own property and much more”......it was her commitment to Capitalism, and her vision for Britain – self-help and hard work, ambition and endeavour, enterprise, personal responsibility and social justice that established...... “the standards and values that are the moral foundations of society (that) are also the foundations of your lives”...... Importantly, she also said: ......“Each of us has to earn freedom anew in order to possess it”....
It is also worth noting the comments of the current UK Foreign Affairs Minister, Rt Hon William Hague when he pointed out..... “it is clear that policies and parties based on private ownership, reduced taxation, increased choice, competition, and the application to the public sector of responsibility, accountability and reward more often associated with the private sector, are the policies showing genuinely positive results across the globe”.

Now, let me take you back to my original Questions 1 & 2.......the consequences of the ‘Good & the Bad’ things we have done!  As you will have noted in my earlier comments we have certainly packed a lot of life experiences of political adolescence, growth and maturity into the Country Liberal journey - along with the scandals and stupidity that preoccupies the media from time to time.  Sound a bit like your own family?

One of the easiest ways I can illustrate our (NT) political development is with some raw statistics:

(1) Federally, since the Division of the Northern Territory was created in 1922 (and subsequently subdivided into Solomon & Lingiari in 2001), there have been 6 Country Liberal Members in the House of Representatives (including me [1980-1983]; + 5 ALP & 1 Independent).  Additionally, since 1975, there have been 3 C-L Senators (including me [1987-2001] !) & 3 ALP Senators.  [ie. So in total we have had 18 Federal representatives in 90 years – 9 from the Country Liberal Party !]

(2) The numbers on (Federal) Electoral Rolls or rather turn-outs are equally important:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Turn-out</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>1245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1949</td>
<td>5318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>30617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>63820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>88026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>121059</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

30000 to 120000 in 35 years (from 1975 to 2010)! That’s an incredible voter increase!  Incidentally the population figures (including kids) from about 110,000 at Self-Government in 1978 is today about double (ie current total population is approximately 240000 – one-third of whom are aboriginal descendants!).

(3) Since the creation of the fully-elected Northern Territory Legislative Assembly in 1974 the Country Liberal Party has had 64 members elected to the Territory Parliament.  The ALP has had 44 & there were 4 Independents & Nationals elected.  (nb. 8 CLP-MLAs changed to Independents or National during their terms + one MLA (Alison Anderson) changed from ALP to the CLP !).
Does that mean we can expect a 4-fold increase (to 480000 voters, and a population of one million) in the next generation period? Will the Aboriginal percentage of the population still be 33%?

There are undoubtedly important planning implications for your Central Council in Party Membership recruitment and Pre-selections, Policy development, and advice to future Governments—particularly about commercial development opportunities and essential education, health and welfare services to Territory constituents. The first place for controversial and provocative debate should always be in Central Council.

Now, let me take you back to my original Questions 3, 4, & 5...about Management, Crisis, & the Future!

There have been many reports affecting the development of the Northern Territory. At this stage I highlight three reports in particular, - Payne & Fletcher (1937), Cities Commission/PakPoy (1975), and Wran (1995).

The “Payne & Fletcher Report” of 1937 inquired into “Land and Land Industries of the Northern Territory” against the background of a population of 5000, the ‘White Australia Policy’ and fear of Asia, a ‘racist’ Aboriginal problem, and a ‘paternalistic’ system of Public Administration—all of which would be totally unacceptable today! However the Federal Government of 1938 settled a visionary policy of construction, development, transport, taxation and administration—all to have these initiatives thwarted by World War 11.

With only 10,000 demoralised and Cyclone Tracy fatigued residents in Darwin in January 1975, the Cities Commission turned up with a series of schizophrenic reports on Planning for Darwin and it is little wonder their Canberra staff and consultants weren’t lynched. The debate quickly focussed on balancing integrity, speed and cost—and the planners lost the argument when it came to pitting practicality against theory.

The Country Liberal Party was only spawned in 1974! Despite all the difficulties in the Darwin Reconstruction Commission in the lead-up to Self Government (1978) there was a special energy ‘in the room’ and ‘we all dared to dream’.

The Darwin Reconstruction financial commitments to both the Public and Private sectors was phenomenal and certainly underpinned Self Government, the extensive Building Industry, and the provision of Welfare and other opportunities to many Indigenous communities.

Thirdly, in 1995 the former NSW Premier Neville Wran was commissioned to examine ways in which Governments might foster development to take advantage of the proximity to the countries of East Asia. Thankfully, the results of “The Wran Report” have been implemented.
Whilst I personally always forged good relationships with Territory political leaders it is undeniable that Parliamentary Leadership appears to require at least about 1000 days in office in order to be widely judged as ‘inspirational and successful’ and as working in league with the Party hierarchy. I think it is generally accepted that of the 10 NT Majority Leaders and Chief Ministers since 1974 -

- Goff Letts (1029 days in office/+4 Executive Teams),
- Paul Everingham (2621 days/+1 Executive + 8 Ministries),
- Marshall Perron (2507 days/+7 Ministries),
- and Shane Stone (1355 days/+8 Ministries)

were seen to have represented the Country Liberal Party exceedingly well. [It is also significant that Shane Stone had previously and effectively served as a stimulating Party President for about 3 years in the 1987/1990 period]. Similarly, Clare Martin (2290 days/+8 Ministries) and Paul Henderson (1739 days/+2 Ministries) were easily recognised as strong ALP leaders.

Political tensions and poor relationships with wider-Party management-organisations or Branches contributed to the early demise of -

- Ian Tuxworth (575 days/+4 Ministries),
- Steve Hatton (791 days/+5 Ministries),
- Denis Burke (922 days/+3 Ministries)
- and Terry Mills (197 days/+1 Ministry).

Notably dozens of elected MLAs have served in the 43 CLP Executives/Ministries. The most successful in dealing with Canberra in conjunction with their Chief Ministers were undoubtedly Barry Coulter, Daryl Manzie and Mike Reed, - certainly they complemented me federally in hustling for cash, programs and legislation reviews.

Co-incidentally, and appropriately, the Country Liberals ‘came of age’ with their 21st anniversary in 1995 under the stewardship of Shane Stone. His dynamic and result driven agenda thrust the Parliamentary Team of the Party and the Legislative Assembly into a full partnership in all the Commonwealth and community forums. As both Party President and Chief Minister Shane Stone forced a proper debating arena of controversial issues and constitutional issues. In particular, the elected MLAs and Federal MPs frankly represented their constituencies and party responsibilities.

At the same time we need to acknowledge the great strides in social change that the forward thinking ‘Country Liberal Women’ - led and engineered by the likes of Wendy James, Glenda Stripling, Linda Fazaldeen & Co – pioneered into Northern Territory politics. Today we take their achievements for granted. They pioneered special changes well before women’s action was so effective interstate.
There are inevitable and inbuilt conflicts between Canberra and the States & Territories! The electorate paternalism of inter-state MHRs and Senators often produce strange alliances and interventions across state and electorate boundaries and at times even Party divisions. Complex policy problems such as Uranium, Coronation Hill, Land Rights & Native Title, Euthanasia, Mandatory Sentencing, the Intervention and Gambling issues have highlighted this debate time and again. Maverick Federal MPs such as Peter Walsh (ALP Finance Minister) and Kevin Andrews (Liberal anti-euthanasia campaigner) skittled Territory interests. Other vested interests run deep in commercial matters and modern media and social internet networking involve new, different tactics and understandings.

My own political ‘termination/demise’ in 2001, together with the political actions against Shane Stone and Loraine Braham, contributed to the subsequent loss of community support for the Country Liberals at that time.

So, we had a decade [from 2001 to 2012] in the wilderness!

What did we learn?, - and how are we strategically now handling the transition back into representative government?

After a decade of transparent flirtation with “Socialism” and the incurring of significant Government debt by a Labor NT Government (2001-2012), the recent election of the Country Liberals now presents the Country Liberal party with the opportunity to return to first principles of sound economic management, revitalised public administration and responsible parliamentary representation.

2012 also reinforced the power of the ballot box with the election of five bush electorates to the Country Liberals. It was a major, positive, legacy of the Mills/Assembly campaign, and the hard work of many Country Liberals throughout the NT that aboriginal voters significantly identified with the Party for the first time, - and rejected the lethargy and complacency of the ALP in Rural-Shire constituencies.

Suffice to say that following the sales pitch and anticipations of the 2012 NT election, and the contrary early decisions of the new government based on advice of a specially recruited ‘old guard’ of advisers, unfortunately perceptions soon crept in that the Party and Government were ‘bereft of talent’, had ‘spurned an entire generation’, and was ‘harking back to the good old days’ of the Hotel Darwin Green Room & Charlies Restaurant.

The Country Liberal electoral win in the 2012 Legislative Assembly election was a ‘lucky result’ because the Labor performance in Government had been lacklustre and out-of touch with the community. But it was ‘lucky’ also because the Country Liberal policy succeeded in spite of not having an obvious or settled policy position on just about everything.
Today we have a choice between excitement/opportunity/ reward/happiness/& growth, or the alternatives of disappointment/calamity/liquidation/doom/& despair - I know what kind of place I would like my grandkids to grow up in and be experiencing in 40 years time in the Northern Territory along with one million other Territorians.

We all have our personal priorities for Government action by today’s Parliamentary Wing leaders to impact on future generations. I have advised the new Chief Minister Adam Giles & the Deputy Leader David Tollner that mine are;  
- to put the Territory first and concentrate on ‘Development’;  
- energise and respect the NT Public Service;  
- phase-in all cost increases;  
- provide reliable Health & Education services for families;  
- an appreciation of property rights and access to public places;  
- and develop a strong role for political ethics and community pride.

I have been very pleased with the responses of all Ministers in the past few months – they are on track, objective and strategic!

There are many stunning statistics, many past memories, and many delightful dreams that I would like to share with you over coffee, or on another occasion. It is important to recognise that in the past (40 year) generation period - hundreds, if not thousands, of Territorians have been proudly involved in our Party’s brand, with particular and generous support at the grass roots level, and in fiercely debating, adapting and espousing our philosophy and ideals. Earlier I identified 9 former & present Federal MPs, and 64 former & present Territory MLAs (that’s 73 Country Liberal politicians in 40 years!)– just as important are the 100+ candidates who didn’t get elected (& their families & friends) and the hundreds more Party members, Branch Executives and Central Councillors who are always making, and debating, new evolving Policy.

This Paper has hopefully been an attempt to be both a ‘History Lesson’ and a timely ‘Sermon’.

I have sought to weave the necessary connections between the Party’s Parliamentary Wings and its Central Council, - particularly sheeting-home responsibility on Parliamentary & lay-Party Leadership, actively recruiting aboriginal members to Branches & Central Council from throughout the Territory, and recognising outstanding issues and personalities, especially in Darwin’s Northern Suburbs.

The last 40 years has clearly shown us that in determining successfully the way ahead in the next generation it is vital that Territory community priorities are first filtered through Central Council, by perhaps debating Notices-of-Motion, and at the same time Parliamentarians finessing that input with electorate and National viewpoints. This must involve partnerships between Government, the Parliamentary Wings, Secretariat staff and the Party’s Central Council.
I know this is a challenge for every member of Central Council and your Branch members! There are topics galore to address and debate – for example:

- the role of the “Welfare State” (with 30% of NT welfare dependent),
- why there are too many poor people in the Territory,
- the ‘Social Capital’ required in all NT communities,
- the accountability, auditing and contributions of the opaque Indigenous Trust Funds,
- World Heritage opportunities and issues,
- Access to Natural Resources,
- Renewable Energy sources,
- Defence & Security implications,
- Population growth & Unemployment,
- Future Water supplies,
- Feeding Asia,
- and the perennial “Statehood”!

Our biggest and best debates and dilemmas have always been settled at Central Council around the fireside barbecues and major social events throughout the Territory. (Who can ever forget functions at Undoolyah or Bond Springs, the Tennant Creek pub, Mataranka Homestead, the Buntine home in Katherine, the Croc at Jabiru or the posh settings of Darwin Casino?).

But for now, and in conclusion, let me take you back to my original Question 6..........What and how are we going to celebrate the Country Liberal’s 40th Anniversary during this next 12 months ?............ I give you three immediate issues to tackle:


* Secondly, by recognising the maturity of Indigenous Politics both in the Community and in the Party. Thankfully after 40 years (and after a long pre-occupation from the Whitlam era) we now have a reciprocal obligation and relationship with aboriginal voters and residents - who will never leave the Northern Territory. We must fully and equitably involve their participation, priorities, trust and measurable results. This is a new dynamic and challenge inside the Country Liberals, translating permanent Aboriginal voting strength to an advantage.

* & Thirdly, by reviewing the essential Role of Central Council. It can be as rewarding as you chose to make it! The forum of Central Council should be the Party’s most important agency.
I leave you with something to ponder:

    POLITICS IS A PUBLIC ACTIVITY.

    IT IS NOT A PROFESSION NOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT –

    IT IS A FORM OF TRUSTEESHIP AND A PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGE.

Have a Happy Anniversary - all Year (2013 – 2014) !!
THE AUTHOR OF THIS PAPER is THE HON GRANT TAMBLING AM, who accepts full responsibility for the text as printed. An edited/abbreviated version of this paper was presented to the Central Council of the Country-Liberals on 22 June 2013.

Grant Tambling has spent the past 40 years in various public positions. He grew up and was educated in Darwin, and had commercial backgrounds in Accounting, Insurance Sales, Health Insurance & Building Society Directorships, Art Gallery & NewsagencyOwnership.

In 1972 Grant Tambling was elected as an Alderman of the Darwin City Council. In 1974 he joined the Country Liberal Party and was elected as the Member for Fannie Bay in the NT’s first Legislative Assembly (for one term) and served in the 4 Lets/CLP Executive Teams. In 1980 he was elected Federal Member for the Northern Territory (for one term) in the House of Representatives. In 1987 he was elected to the Australian Senate (and subsequently re-elected for a total of 5 parliamentary terms which included 6 years as a Ministerial Parliamentary Secretary in the Howard Government). He retired from politics in 2001 after a dispute about internet gambling and federalism with the Country Liberal Party.

From 2003 to 2007 Grant Tambling was the appointed Administrator of Norfolk Island. His other statutory appointments were from 1975 to 1978 as a Commissioner of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission following Cyclone Tracy; from 1983 to 1987 as Deputy Chairman of the Northern Territory Town Planning Authority; in 2003 as Panel Chair for the Mandatory Renewable Energy Target Review; and from 2008 (current) as a Member of the Development Consent Authority for Darwin City.

Grant Tambling has been personally involved in over 100 community based organisations (including membership of the NT Country Liberal Party since 1974). He is a Member of the Order of Australia and has previously been awarded the Centenary Medal and the Queen’s 25th Anniversary Medal.

REFERENCES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS USED IN PREPARATION OF THIS PAPER

Dr Alistair Heatley - “The Territory Party: 1974-1998”

Prof Clare Martin & Dr Mickey Dewar - “Speak for yourself” (Reflections of 8 Chief Ministers) 2012


Payne-Fletcher Board of Inquiry into “Land and Land Industries of the Northern Territory” 1937

Darwin Reconstruction Commission/Pak-Poy Reports 1975/76

Wran Report 1995 - “The Committee on Darwin”

The Hon Austin Asche AC QC - Short History of Darwin (Whimsical Chronology)

Dr Nicholas Horne/Parliamentary Library, Canberra - A chronology of Northern Territory Constitutional and Statehood milestones 1825-2007

Dr Alan Tapper – Senior Research Fellow, Curtin University - “Ethics in Politics”

Nick Parsons - NT Director, Australian Electoral Commission

Clerk’s Office, NT Legislative Assembly

Australian Bureau of Statistics


Family, Friends & Former Staff
MEDIA RELEASE   BY – THE HON GRANT TAMBLING AM

ON- SATURDAY 22ND JUNE 2013 - COUNTRY LIBERAL’S CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING, DARWIN NT

Veteran* Northern Territory politician GRANT TAMBLING today addressed the Country Liberals Central Council meeting in Darwin.

In his address, and an associated Discussion Paper (#) also distributed to party delegates, GRANT TAMBLING focussed on the 40-year history, successes and problems of the C-L Party. He complemented the Giles Government for having this year “returned to first principles of sound economic management, revitalised public administration and responsible parliamentary representation” and for being “on track, objective and strategic”.

In his speech GRANT TAMBLING highlighted the crucial and critical relationships necessary between the Party’s Central Council and the Parliamentary Wing & Leadership on matters such as “Party membership recruitment and Pre-selections, Policy development and advice to (future) governments”. He said the Country Liberals had successfully nominated 9 (out of 19) Federal representatives in 90 years, and there had been 64 C-L members in the NT Legislative Assembly since 1974 (cf 44 to ALP). Enrolled voters increased from 1245 in 1922 > to 5318 in 1949 >to 30617 in1975 > to 88026 in1996 >to 121059 in 2010 – if these trends continue for another 40 years “we will have a 4-fold increase to 480,000 voters, and a population of 1million (including 300,000 with aboriginal heritage) in the NT”.

“There is also now a new dynamic and challenge inside the Country Liberals, with the election of five bush electorates where aboriginal voters had (in 2012) significantly identified with the Party for the first time – this meant recruiting aboriginal members to C-L Branches and Central Council, recognising the maturity of indigenous politics and the need for reciprocal obligations, trust and measurable results with people who will never leave the NT. Translating permanent aboriginal voting strengths were vitally important” GRANT TAMBLING said today.

The 40th Anniversary of the Country Liberals provided a review opportunity to face the future with vision, correctness and commitment on behalf of the whole Northern Territory through managing generational change.

Ends

GRANT TAMBLING can be contacted in Darwin by phoning 08 89419595 or 04 00044833.

Copies of the Discussion Paper (#) are available on request.

- “Veteran” MLAs GRANT TAMBLING (CLP), Roger Steele (CLP) & Dawn Lawrie (Ind) are the only former NT Parliamentarians from the ‘Class of 1974’ still permanently resident in the Northern Territory. GRANT TAMBLING served politically as a Darwin Alderman (1972-1974), Executive Member/MLA of the NT Legislative Assembly (1974-1977), Member for the NT in the House of Representatives (1980-1983), Senator for the NT (1987-2001) including a role as Federal Parliamentary Secretary (1996-2001), and subsequently as Administrator of Norfolk Island (2003-2007).