MINISTER FOR LANDS, PLANNING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

FIXING UP LABOR’S MESS FOR A BETTER RECYCLING SCHEME

Minister for Lands, Planning and the Environment, Peter Chandler, said today amendments to legislation for the Territory’s recycling scheme will go before the Legislative Assembly next Sittings in October.

“What a long running saga this has been and what a terrible legacy we have inherited from an incompetent former Labor government.

“They were all about glossy but empty promises, and they lived by the motto ‘bash on regardless, too bad about the consequences’. This is being played out again by Labor on the federal stage.

“The consequence for the Territory has been huge debt and a problematic recycling scheme which was clumsy because Labor refused to listen to advice from many quarters.

“Territorians were thrown a nightmare of a recycling scheme by Labor, along with high rents and high house prices. I could go on. They can’t be trusted, just like their federal colleagues.

“On the other hand, the Country Liberals Government and the federal Coalition are about action.

“We have fought for the recycling scheme because it is popular with Territorians, with individuals, groups, community organisations, who all like a bit of extra cash jingling in their pockets and at the same time they do their bit to keep the Territory in pristine condition.

“The legislation was defective and the implementation was rushed and ad hoc – might I note this was no fault of the people on the ground and in the department trying to get it off the ground – no, this was because of political pressure applied by a lazy government.

“It started to fall over less than a year after being introduced in January 2012.

“The Country Liberals has defended it in court against the beverage companies, we funded it when they pulled out, we lobbied state and Territory governments and the Commonwealth for an exemption from the Mutual Recognition Act and now we are amending the Act.

“By introducing a range of amendments to the legislation the Country Liberals will fix this scheme for all involved from collectors to depots.”

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