MEDIA RELEASE

Natasha Fyles
Shadow Minister for Parks and Wildlife

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MINISTER CAUGHT OUT

Shadow Minister for Parks and Wildlife Natasha Fyles today said Parks and Wildlife Minister Bess Price had been caught out deceiving the Parliament.

In Question Time yesterday Ms Fyles asked for an explanation of the government’s mean-spirited decision to remove all grant funding from Frogwatch, a local group which has worked hard to limit the impact of cane toads on our unique Territory wildlife.

In reply, the Parks and Wildlife Minister said in Parliament:

“Let me be clear; this government did not cut the funding for Frogwatch. The contract was terminated by mutual agreement, effective 31 March 2013.” (Hansard, 10 October 2013)

Today Frogwatch has repudiated this claim and said:

“We did not and do not agree with the cut but were given no choice.” (NT News, 11 October 2013)

“With rains starting, cane toads are already on the march again but the Territory Government has cut funding to Frogwatch,” Ms Fyles said.

“But when asked in Parliament, Parks and Wildlife Minister Bess Price tried to pull the wool over our eyes by claiming the cut was mutually agreed.

“Why would any organisation agree to a funding cut which prevents it from continuing its important work?

“It is clear that the cut to Frogwatch was unilaterally decided by the CLP Government and Frogwatch just had to cop the consequences.

“Why did the Minister think she could give an answer in Question Time which does not reflect what actually happened?

“With the funding cut, what will the Government do to stop cane toads on the march?”

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