MEDIA RELEASE

Ken Vowles
SHADOW MINISTER FOR GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

22 November 2013

CLP IN A STATE OF DENIAL

Shadow Minister for Government Accountability Ken Vowles said the CLP were in a state of denial over the significant challenges facing Territorians.

“Chief Minister Adam Giles provides his State of the Union address today and we won’t be holding our breath to hear that he is stopping the disastrous cuts to education that threaten our future prosperity,” Mr Vowles said.

“We all know that to have improved social and economic outcomes we need the best possible education for our children now and the CLP have taken an axe to education with hundreds of jobs lost across teaching and crucial support staff positions.

“Instead of listening to the experts, educators, parents, school councils and communities who are all calling on the CLP to stop the cuts, Adam Giles believes people are upset about a pay rise being offered in the EBA – the depth of denial is extraordinary.”

Mr Vowles said that the Giles denial now extends to our crucial relationship with Indonesia when he claims that our relationship isn’t being affected by the current diplomatic crisis and fails to call on Prime Minister Abbott to apologise.

“Even Terry Mills understands that it is crucial to our relationship with Indonesia that a sincere and genuine apology occur so that we can all get on with rebuilding our crucial ties with this important neighbour,” Mr Vowles said.

“But sadly for Territorians the Giles denial stretches to no new land release across Darwin and Palmerston while the accommodation squeeze grows without any long-awaited announcement on where the next major land release will be.

“The CLP are relying on Palmerston East and Muirhead sub-divisions and urban unit developments delivered under Labor but bungled hugely by scrapping Weddell and failing to expedite an alternative.

“Housing costs will continue to escalate under the CLP which will add to the cost of living spike created as a result of the PowerWater tariff hikes hurting families and businesses right now with more increases to come.
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“Where are the plans to alleviate these cost of living pressures? Why is the CLP taking a wrecking ball to PowerWater so great that even their own board members resign in disgust? How much more tariff pain does the CLP expect families and businesses to wear because they want profit before people as their utility policy?"

Mr Vowles said that sadly the people of North East Arnhem land are feeling the brunt of the Giles denial the most because of his decision to renege on the gas to Gove deal.

“For Giles to scrap the 300 petajoule offer on a Friday public holiday and pretend that a 175pj offer is better is one of his gravest denials because thousands of jobs are under threat along with regional economic development,” Mr Vowles said.

“To understand the depths of denial that this current Chief Minister will sink to just look at the limbo facing families and businesses in Nhulunbuy and the affect on morale in the region.

“In fact, the CLP will deny that morale is poor across the Territory’s public service and they like to think that businesses are booming instead of understanding there is an environment of have and have nots out there that needs to be attended to.”

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