Media Release

Adam Giles
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

A clear choice for voters in Casuarina

29 July 2014

Voters in Casuarina will have a clear choice when they go to the polls between a Government that’s planning for the future of Northern Australia and an Opposition of failed economic managers with no new ideas.

“I would like to pay tribute to Kon Vatskalis who announced his retirement today. We didn’t always see eye to eye but he has been a strong local member for 13 years who has made a big contribution to public life. I wish him well in life after politics,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

“Winning this safe Labor seat will be tough for the Country Liberals but only one party has a plan for the Northern Suburbs, the Northern Territory and Northern Australia

“Two years into my government’s term, I am proud to tell the people of the Casuarina that we are on-target to complete our election commitments and have also initiated many new strategic policies that will stand the Territory in good stead for many years to come.

“Under the Country Liberals’ plan, we have the fastest growing economy in the country. This means increased job opportunities, higher wages and new business opportunities for current and future generations of Casuarina residents.

“The major employer in Casuarina, Casuarina Shopping Square is buzzing with 13 consecutive months of retail trade growth.

“By strengthening our public service, we’re building a Northern Territory with a bright future.

“My Government has a plan that not only repays Delia’s unprecedented $5.5 billion Labor debt, but also creates jobs and opportunity for our children and grandchildren by growing our economy and attracting investment.

“We have a plan to make the Territory more affordable and have started driving down the cost of living through a rapid land release program.
“We’re helping parents cover the cost of child care by increasing our government subsidy and easing the squeeze on the family budget with our $150 Back to School Vouchers.

“We’re also making it cheaper to raise an active healthy family by more than doubling our popular Sports Vouchers to $200 per child per year.

“The Country Liberals are planning for a growing Darwin and have delivered the duplication of Tiger Brennan Drive, making it easier for Casuarina residents to get into the city for work each day.

“We are building a brand new state-of-the-art hospital in Palmerston to ease pressure on other parts of our health system.

“We’re keeping Territorians safe by giving police the tools and resources they need to drive down crime. Our plan is already reducing crime on our streets by tackling bad behaviour head-on and placing social responsibility on the individual rather than society at large.

“Since our new Alcohol Protection Orders came into effect at Christmas, alcohol-related assaults have plummeted 16 per cent. Over the year to May, house break-ins have dropped by 15 per cent in Darwin and commercial break-ins are down by 33 per cent.

“We’re helping Casuarina residents make the most of our great Territory lifestyle by building our recreation infrastructure and bringing first class sport to the Top End.

“Upgrades to Hidden Valley race track and the Territory Eels NRL game against the Canberra Raiders on August 9 are just two examples of this Government’s investment in our great sporting and outdoor lifestyle.

“Kon Vatskalis has seen the writing on the wall under Delia Lawrie’s desperate and delusional leadership. Labor is deeply unhappy and divided under her reign and I can understand why he wants out.

“I urge Casuarina residents to look beyond Kon Vatskalis’ personal record and remember the financial mismanagement left behind by Delia Lawrie when she was in government.

“She drove the Territory’s bank account to the brink of bankruptcy, too busy doing back room deals that gave away the Territory’s public assets through her dodgy Stella Maris deal.

“By contrast, a vote for the Country Liberals in Casuarina is a vote for the Territory for tomorrow, with economic stability and jobs for our children, as well as the protection of our unique Territory lifestyle and environment.”

MEDIA CONTACT: Danielle Parry 0413 081 801