CONSULTATION BEGINS ON VILIFICATION PROTECTION LAWS

Leader of the Opposition, Delia Lawrie, today released a Discussion Paper *Tackling Racial Vilification in the Northern Territory* seeking Territorians views on a proposed Private Members Bill to include racial vilification protection in the Anti-Discrimination Act of the Northern Territory.

“The Territory is the only jurisdiction which does not have anti-vilification provisions in legislation,” Ms Lawrie said.

“We have always relied on the Commonwealth legislation to protect Territorians but the Federal Liberal Government’s plan to repeal of section 18C of the Commonwealth Racial Discrimination Act leaves Territorians vulnerable.

“Section 18C of the federal law provides protection to individuals from offensive behaviour because of race, colour, national or ethnic origin.

“I believe that it is crucial that all levels of government combat bigotry and it is important to send a clear message that racial vilification has no place in our society.”

Ms Lawrie is writing to legal, Indigenous, multicultural groups and all Member of the Legislative Assembly to seek comment about the proposed legislation.

“The Territory has a proud and diverse multicultural society and racial vilification against any Territorian is unacceptable,” Ms Lawrie said.

“The issue of racial vilification in the Territory should be above party politics and I am seeking the support from all of my Territory Parliament colleagues to ensure that Territorians have the racial vilification protection they need.”

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