MEDIA RELEASE

Ken Vowles
SHADOW MINISTER FOR LANDS AND PLANNING

11 May 2014

CALL FOR RAPID CREEK CARE

Shadow Minister for Lands and Planning, and local Member for Johnston, Ken Vowles, today called on the CLP Government to form a fully funded Rapid Creek Catchment Taskforce.

Mr Vowles said a Taskforce was vital to ensure a management plan for the entire catchment was developed with all stakeholders at the table.

“Rapid Creek and its catchment area is an important part of Darwin’s environmental and community landscape,” Mr Vowles said.

“The catchment for Rapid Creek covers a large area of the Northern Suburbs and any changes to the catchment area have an effect on the whole system.

“Greater engagement with stakeholders, developers and community groups needs to happen before further changes to the catchment occurs.

"Budget 2014 needs to fund a secretariat to establish a Rapid Creek Catchment Taskforce.

“Taskforce members could represent the major stakeholders in the catchment area and work together to improve the management of the catchment and advise the relevant Minister on policy areas pertaining to this management.

“A balance needs to be struck to ensure the Rapid Creek Catchment is suitably managed and maintained.

“Only last month we saw land clearing occur at the top of the catchment without the appropriate approvals.

“Residents want to know that attention is being paid to ensure the interests of residents, environmental groups and other stakeholders.”

Mr Vowles said that the Minister for Lands and Planning, Peter Chandler, should be making sure there are funds allocated in next week’s budget to resource a taskforce.

Media contact: Cathryn Tilmouth 0427 500 667