QANTAS CLOSURE A CRUEL BLOW

Member for Nhulunbuy, Lynne Walker, today said the announcement by Qantas to cancel their Nhulunbuy operations in August was a huge blow to the community of Nhulunbuy and the region.

“Qantaslink removing their services to Nhulunbuy is a devastating announcement,” Ms Walker said.

“This will mean more job losses in a community still reeling from the devastation of the curtailment of the Rio Tinto alumina refinery that resulted in a loss of 1200 jobs.”

Ms Walker said the Chief Minister, Adam Giles, had failed the residents and businesses of Nhulunbuy and the North East Arnhem region by rolling over and letting Rio Tinto wind down their Nhulunbuy operations at such a brutal pace.

“Adam Giles took a back seat while Rio Tinto sealed the fate of Nhulunbuy by winding down their operations in just seven months,” Ms Walker said.

“This brutal time frame, coupled with the lack of effort from Adam Giles and the CLP Government and an absence of structural adjustment packages have sealed this announcement by Qantas.

“The population of Nhulunbuy has decreased dramatically and the effects have resulted in a reduction of services to Nhulunbuy, with air access now to be diminished by the withdrawal of Qantas.”

Ms Walker again questioned what Adam Giles has planned for the future of Nhulunbuy.

“Since the announcement by Rio Tinto to curtail their alumina refinery operations the community of Nhulunbuy has taken blow after blow with little reprieve offered from the CLP Government,” Ms Walker said.

“Nhulunbuy residents and businesses have been looking to the Government to provide economic infrastructure and hope to the local community, but the CLP Government has failed them miserably.”
“Despite earlier this year touting the possible tourism opportunities in Nhulunbuy the CLP Government has failed to maintain the necessary air services required to ensure Nhulunbuy is an attractive tourism destination.

“Qantas leaving Nhulunbuy is a cruel reminder that the CLP Government has no plan for Nhulunbuy.”

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