TOLLNER PUSH FOR PUBS AND POKIES IN REMOTE COMMUNITIES

Opposition Leader, Delia Lawrie, has called on the Treasurer, Dave Tollner, to explain plans he has to introduce poker machines to remote Indigenous communities after the Government flagged the move during Estimates hearings.

A written answer provided by Mr Tollner specifically foreshadowed a move by the Government to reintroduce social clubs and poker machines in communities.

“This could have dire consequences for these communities and would require extensive consultation and social impact analysis before any move in this direction,” Ms Lawrie said.

The estimates answer states “Reintroduce social clubs and poker machines in some communities … an opportunity for the NTG (Northern Territory Government) to further discuss this matter with the new (Federal) Government/Minister.”

“The Giles Government seems addicted to poker machine revenue and oblivious to the social harm,” Ms Lawrie said.

“This is on top of Dave Tollner’s outrageous plan to triple the number of poker machines allowed to 30 at pubs and doubling the number to 90 at clubs.

“Territorians pumped more than half a billion dollars into poker machines last year for total losses in excess of $60 million in pubs and clubs alone.

“That equates to more than $2,500 for every man, woman and child in the Territory.

“For problem gamblers, poker machines inflict misery on families and households, squandering important family income which should be spent on food and housing.”

Ms Lawrie said this plan coupled to the CLP’s decision to drop the moratorium on the issuing of new takeaway alcohol licenses showed a disgraceful disregard for the wellbeing of Territorians.

Media contact: Cathryn Tilmouth 0427 500 667