LITCHFIELD COUNCIL DISPUTE NEEDS GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP

Shadow Minister for Local Government, Gerry McCarthy, today called on the CLP Government to step in and provide leadership to help resolve the uncertainty at the Litchfield Town Council.

“Litchfield residents are not being represented effectively at a local government level because of the internal council conflict,” Mr McCarthy said.

“This prolonged dispute has now spilled over to the public domain and it needs to be resolved as quickly as possible so that a functioning council is restored.”

“The Local Government Act provides the Minister with powers that need to be exercised to resolve this dispute. Has a departmental team been instigated to mediate a resolution?”

“There have been several Ministers for Local Government through CLP Cabinet reshuffles and support for councils and shires has floundered rather than strengthened.”

Mr McCarthy said, “that the CLP has consistently mismanaged the Local Government portfolio with neighbouring Councils the Victoria-Daly Regional Council shedding jobs after boundary changes and the West Daly Regional Council needing financial ‘top-up’ for sustainability.”

“The CLP Government need to stop failing ratepayers and step up to the task of supporting Councils in crisis and Litchfield is definitely in need of Territory Government leadership and support to resolve this uncertainty affecting residents.”

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