MEDIA RELEASE

Gerry McCarthy
MEMBER FOR BARKLY

20 February 2105

No Room on Plane for Local Member

The member for Barkly, Gerry McCarthy said today it was mean-spirited of the Chief Minister Adam Giles to refuse him a seat on his taxpayer-funded charter flight to Gerry’s home town of Tennant Creek to attend the commencement of the re-enactment of the Borella Ride.

“I asked Mr Giles if he could see his way to giving me a ride in the nine-seat plane, as parliament wasn’t due to finish until 7pm on Thursday night.

“I drive from Tennant Creek to Darwin to perform my parliamentary duties to save on the expense of flying and it’s a 1,000km trip. It’s dangerous and well-nigh impossible to drive home overnight.

“Adam Giles was very aggressive in his response, saying I could use more tax payers’ money to charter a second plane of my own.

“Various Prime Ministers have shown bi-partisanship by offering seats on their VIP planes to members of the opposition when it’s an important occasion.

“The Chief Minister had an opportunity to do the same; he chose instead to make it a fight,” Mr McCarthy said.

The Borella Ride is the flagship event in the NT’s Centenary of ANZAC.

“A constituent told me early this week that the Chief Minister was flying in, so encouraged me to see if I could hitch a ride," he said.

Besides his long standing connection to Tennant Creek and his electorate, Mr McCarthy has a family connection to the ANZAC tradition. His maternal grandfather Frank Geelan was an ANZAC veteran.

“I say shame Adam Giles. Your arrogance, mean-spirited and punitive approach to leadership will be your defining legacy.”

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