Media Release

Peter Styles
Minister for Business

**Labor: explain why you won’t publicly apologise**

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The Labor Opposition Leader has failed a leadership test by not issuing a written public apology to the three men the Labor Party used to support its call for a corruption watchdog.

Business Minister Peter Styles said the Opposition Leader’s refusal to issue a written public apology to the General Manager of Channel 9 Darwin, Darwin’s Honorary Greek Consul and head of the Department of Business, was a damning indictment of the style of leadership he and Labor would bring to government in the Territory.

“The Labor leader is saying it is OK to launch dishonest attacks on key business people and heads of department if it suits his political agenda,” Mr Styles said.

“The opposition leader should also publicly censure his Member for Nhulunbuy Lyn Walker who described the General Manager of Channel 9 Darwin, Darwin’s Honorary Greek Consul and the head of my Department of Business, as being like a who’s who list of mates of the CLP to justify the need for a corruption watchdog.

“I doubt very much whether the Labor Member for Nhulunbuy has ever met either the General Manager of Channel 9 or the Honorary Greek Consul, yet she is more than happy to throw them up to support her corruption allegations.

“All of the three people that Labor attacked have impeccable reputations.

“The General Manager of Channel 9 is held in the highest esteem by the business community and the wider community for his contribution to the Territory for which he has been bestowed honours for at a national level. He serves on numerous community boards, is the Chair of the Northern Territory Education and Training Authority and is a man of honesty and impeccable character.

“Likewise the Greek Consul is a former administrator, who has been bestowed national honours for his contribution to the Territory and represents the Territory Greek community with the utmost honesty and integrity.

“For the record again the Head of the Department of Business is also one of the most highly regarded Chief Executives the Territory has ever had. He is held in high esteem for his tireless work for the Territory throughout the business community, throughout regional Territory centres and among his interstate counterparts.”
Mr Styles said the Labor Opposition Leader needs to explain why he will not issue a written public apology to these three men given the statements were made very publicly.

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