

Email: ntnmail@ntnews.com.au | Text: 0428 NTNEWS | Fax: 08 8981 6045 | Letters: PO Box 1300, Darwin NT 0801

CONNECT WITH US

- www.ntnews.com.au
- @TheNTNews
- Facebook.com/TheNTNews

# Your Say

YOUR VOICE IN THE TERRITORY

EDITORIAL  
**NT News**  
**Future of MLA needs securing**

WHEN Kezia Purick left the CLP, there were strong rumours that her mate and rural neighbour Gary Higgins would walk as well. If the polls are to be believed, both would have struggled to keep their jobs at the next election standing under the Country Liberals' banner.

Today's story, which reveals Mr Higgins is on the verge of leaving the CLP, is further concern to the fading CLP government. Mr Higgins has told fellow MLAs and the NT News that a decision will be made over the Christmas holidays. But for reasons never made clear, Adam Giles' office put out a statement denying that Mr Higgins had ever discussed weighing his options. That claim was quickly rubbished by Mr Higgins and Ms Purick.

When Ms Purick was on the precipice, the NT News took the strong position that she must make a decision and stick with it. This Government's biggest problem has been its captivity to innuendo, scandal and infighting. When the CLP has allowed itself, however briefly, to focus on policy, the party has had some successes.

The biggest risk, as we saw it, was that Ms Purick sitting on the fence would only further destabilise the Government. Her electors deserved to know where their local member stood. And Ms Purick presumably made her decision in the interests of her seat.

Mr Higgins is now in the same position. Chatter about his future in political and business circles has become too loud to ignore.

If he were to walk, the Giles Government would be left with only 11 seats — down considerably from their once strong majority of 16.

Mr Giles will have to enter into a formal agreement with an independent member if he hopes to prop up his dwindling government.

He will also face tremendous pressure in the coming weeks and months to convince Territorians his Government has the legitimacy to govern.

## ...and another thing

**BERRIMAH** blokes have got a tough job trying to score a date. Latest ABS stats show the Top End's blokiest suburb has 194 men for every 100 women.

One Berrimah local said: "There are hardly ever any women here, maybe one or two on the odd occasion, but other than that it's all blokes, except for the strippers of course."

We've contacted Channel Ten to let them know Berrimah is where it's at when they're looking for the next Bachelor.

## The Fixer

**WHAT:** This drain on Bennett St is completely silted up. It won't be draining diddly-squat if it's not cleaned before the Wet.

**WHO'S RESPONSIBLE:** Darwin council general manager for infrastructure Luccio Cercarelli.

**CONTACT:** 8930 0581.



Do you know of something in the Territory that needs fixing? Give the Fixer a call on 8944 9750, email thefixer@ntnews.com.au or follow on Twitter @NTNTheFixer

Letters to the editor should be kept to 175 words or less. Send your letters to GPO Box 1300, Darwin, 0801, or email ntnmail@ntnews.com.au You must include your name, home address or PO Box number. Name and address will be withheld on request. The Northern Territory News reserves the right to edit letters. Responsibility is taken by the Editor, NT News, GPO Box 1300, Darwin, NT, 0801



## Letters

### Feeling our pain

ABC radio morning news August 17, 2015, Gerry Wood stated he's confused.

Well Gerry, so are we, how does it feel to be like the rest of us, not being listened to?

Are not the politicians supposed to be working for the majority of constituents in the electorate they belong to? They are not there to get personal goals and projects achieved!

It's time to get government under control, not over-controlling government, don't you think? Democracy should reign, not dictatorship.

The people employ the Government, it's not up to the Government to dictate what those few think the people need. Power to the people must return in the name of true democracy.

**Donna Mahony, Dundee Downs**

### Blame game

I AM confused by the coronial inquest into the death of an Aboriginal man who died of a heart condition in the Darwin watchhouse.

Why are the police and the paperless arrest under scrutiny? I'm sorry, if you are drunk in public you don't belong on the streets — you should be in jail or a sober-up shelter.

The inquiry heard the deceased had been picked up for being drunk twice already that

■ COULD we just let all the gay people get married/divorced and get on with the important stuff. **The fly, fannie bay.**

week, was taken to hospital where he played up and also missed two appointments about his medical condition — and if you have heart problems wouldn't it be a good idea to stop getting drunk?

I'm sorry, but take responsibility for your own actions and stop blaming the system.

**Trent Steele, Parap**

### First things first

IT IS about time we got our priorities in order. Some weeks ago there was breaking news about the epidemic of venereal disease affecting minors in Aboriginal communities. Since then any further news or action taken has escaped me.

I believe this to be a disgusting situation and any action taken should take precedence over any decision over same-sex marriage.

The Abbott Government should address the real issues confronting this country and the sanctimonious Bill should get off his high horse and offer co-operation in confronting the more important problems we face.

**Tony Hardwick, Humpty Doo**

### Hole lot of worry

I HAVE a picture from Making

Waves, a Greenpeace publication of July 2015 that all people concerned about coal mining should see.

It shows land in China that is covered in sinkholes as far as the eye can see, captioned: "This photo captures sinkholes in Inner Mongolia, China as a result of severe water depletion caused by coal mining in China."

I would imagine this has contributed to China needing to procure land in other countries to grow their food.

Unfortunately there was no way for me to attach the image.

**Annie Rees, Brinkin**

### Sorry state

HAVING lived in Darwin 1970 to 1984 and known several of the principal architects of independence for the NT, I am certain Dick Ward and Ron Withnall would turn in their graves if they knew about the present day governance in the NT.

With brawling in Darwin City Council, acrimonious backstabbing in the Legislative Assembly, hopeless hatred in the CLP and shambolic messes in the ALP, one wonders why anyone would consider such a cesspit deserves statehood.

Certainly there are honourable members of all groups, but

the outstanding awfulness of others is dragging you all down. **Gordon Pelletier, NSW**

### Here we go again

THE Territory never learns. We are again oversupplying residential land and homes.

Don't we remember the last time builders went mad in the 1990s, oversupplied the market, then going bankrupt, sparking the government's builders insurance to protect consumers? Same thing in the late '70s early '80s. So here we are again about to enter a large oversupply of land lots and units and homes in a market that is shrinking.

Late next year we will be seeing builders going bankrupt, unsold land lots, developers in trouble, and an idiot government still pumping out lots as though they are being clever.

**David Goode, Durack**

### Find off switch

"THIS is a solemn occasion" said the priest "please switch off your phones."

Over the next hour three phones rang. To see an embarrassed mourner dive for the pocket or handbag with a quick open and shut of the phone is an unwanted distraction.

Please, will the young people in the shops, when selling a phone to the over-45s, make sure you show them how to switch it off and on.

**Billy Moir, Nightcliff**

## On this day IN THE TERRITORY

**10 YEARS AGO:** The Territory is considering joining a Federal Government scheme to lure 20,000 skilled workers to Australia each year. It will be the biggest immigration drive since the so-called Ten Pound Pom program in the 1950s and 1960s.

**20 YEARS AGO:** More than 50 international delegates attended the NT-hosted conference, the first time the annual conference has been held in Australia. The occasion was a multicultural meeting of global members of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme.

**25 YEARS AGO:** The multimillion dollar Katherine Rural College has been given until 1991 to shape up or face closure. Education Minister Tom Harris said: "I'm deeply concerned the future of the college appears to be under serious threat because of falling student numbers".