POLITICAL DONATIONS LAWS MUST BE REFORMED

Opposition Whip Natasha Fyles today announced a Territory Labor Government will hold a full judicial inquiry into political donations laws.

Ms Fyles said the inquiry would provide important advice on reforms to the Northern Territory’s political donations laws and would uncover the truth about the creation and operation of Foundation 51.

“Territorians deserve to have every confidence that the resources of Government are always employed in the public interest.” Ms Fyles said.

“Labor recognises that our current donation and disclosure laws give rise to perceptions that private and not public interest can drive policy outcomes and Government decisions.

“This is why the inquiry will be asked to advise on possible changes to electoral laws including caps on donations and in-kind support, disclosure thresholds, timing and frequency of disclosure returns, public funding for political parties and candidates, and election spending caps.

“It’s beyond doubt that the actions of the CLP Government, particularly in relation to Foundation 51, have corroded public faith in the integrity of Government in the Northern Territory.

“Leaked emails and documents discovered under Freedom of Information confirm that Foundation 51 provided substantial financial and in-kind support to the CLP for many years, but did not comply with the disclosure provision set out in the Electoral Act.

“This is why the inquiry will examine Foundation 51 including its relationship with the CLP and the Mills and Giles’ Governments, potential conflicts of interest and any breaches of Northern Territory legislation.

“Territorians will have the chance to participate in the inquiry by making submissions and we expect the inquiry will present its findings towards the middle of 2017.”

“Only Labor will restore trust in, and integrity to, Government in the Northern Territory.”

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