Terry Mills
Leader of the Opposition

CLP promises a recreational lake for Alice Springs

13 May 2004

Under a CLP Government Alice Springs will have a recreational lake, CLP Leader Terry Mills pledged today.

The election pledge was contained in another Position Paper released today by the CLP Leader.

“The majority of people living in Alice Springs have long wanted a recreational lake somewhere a short driving distance from the town. When asked what they wished for in Alice Springs, many people invariably answer, ‘a lake to play on’", said Mr Mills.

“But a recreational lake is more than just giving the people of Alice Springs something to play on. It will bring benefits in tourism, perhaps be a potential supply of fresh water, but most importantly it will serve as an added incentive for people to move to and remain in Alice Springs.

“The CLP recognises these benefits of a recreational lake for Alice Springs and in Government will immediately provide dedicated funds for a feasibility study for a lake. The feasibility study will take into considerations, all the lessons learned from the Junction Waterhole flood mitigation dam that was stopped from going ahead by the Labor Party.

“I know that preliminary engineering studies were done on alternate sites for a recreational lake during the investigation of Junction Waterhole. These studies will also be considered in the feasibility study.

“It will take into consideration all engineering and environmental issues.

“Traditional owners with their cultural considerations and sacred sites will also be closely consulted in the development of the feasibility study for the lake. All community input will be welcomed and encouraged.

“Alice Springs is a great town with facilities for almost any sports, from motor sports to horse racing, from ballet to gymnastics, all codes of football, hockey and tennis and including a few water sports, such as swimming, canoe polo and facilities for SCUBA training. Yet, for all its sporting facilities, it lacks one major facility – a large body of water for recreation.
“Over recent years, even as recent as a few weeks ago, community leaders, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, have articulated that Alice Springs needs a recreation lake.

“The recreational lake, in enhancing lifestyle issues, will encourage people to stay in Central Australia, which like the rest of the Territory has a declining population.”

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