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Auditor General called on to investigate concerns over wharf precinct

The Chief Minister’s refusal to answer legitimate questions in the public interest and claims by unsuccessful tenderers of a highly questionable process of selection for the proposed wharf precinct development warrants the immediate involvement of the Territory’s Auditor General, CLP Leader Denis Burke said today.

Mr Burke has written to the Auditor General on behalf of Territorians and unsuccessful tenderers detailing concerns.

“Legitimate questions asked of the Chief Minister have been arrogantly dismissed. This attitude has prompted allegations of poor process, conflicts of interest and created ill feeling and a bad smell about what should be a landmark development,” Mr Burke said.

“Developers are getting stonewalled and so too Territorians. Despite every effort to get honest answers from the Chief Minister, Clare Martin refuses to tell Territorians what she is doing with the people’s land and the people’s money.

“Territorians support the redevelopment of the waterfront but the Chief Minister’s rush and secrecy are concerning.

“It is a cause for alarm that the Chief Minister has refused to tell Territorians exactly how much it is going to cost them to be a contributor to the wharf project.

“The Chief Minister is using her Government’s partnership stature to throw up a wall of secrecy around the financial dealings, claiming commercial confidentiality.

“Taxpayers need to know that everything is OK with the way the Chief Minister and her Government has handled the process – it’s their right.”

“Territorians are being committed to a 16 year project that now has a major question mark hanging over it because of the Chief Minister’s arrogant attitude.

“I know unsuccessful tenderers feel the Chief Minister’s process of selection for the wharf project has been questionable. So much so there was a threat of legal action because one unsuccessful tenderer believed Government was not totally honest in its dealings with them.
“The unsuccessful tenderer also wants the Auditor General to investigate raising new allegations of a conflict of interest.

“It is clear the Auditor General needs to investigate all the concern raised so that Territorians can be assured the Chief Minister is being honest with them.”

Ends