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CABINET CRACKS ON OPEN DISPLAY

Division within the Martin Government is again on display, this time about 99 year leases on traditional land.

Environment Minister, Marion Scrymgour, has publicly expressed her concerns about the leases saying – “This has divided our people as no other issue has divided our people”.

The problem for Minister Scrymgour is that her Chief Minister supports the introduction of 99 year leases.

“This is second time in the recent past the Minister for the Environment has been out of step with her Cabinet colleagues, having absented herself from the Chamber during the McArthur River Mine debate,” says Jodeen Carney, Leader of the Opposition.

“The public needs to know whether Minister Scrymgour actually supports her Government’s policy of encouraging 99 year leases on traditional land and where she stands in respect of the McArthur River Mine expansion.

“Unity of purpose is now a distant concept within the Martin Government,” says Jodeen Carney, Leader of the Opposition.

“The Martin Government is pulling in several directions at once and will inevitably split if the Chief Minister doesn’t bring the dissent under control.

“Governments don’t function effectively when individual Ministers publicly oppose agreed Cabinet positions.

“If the Minister doesn’t support the Cabinets position on either of these issues she has no choice but to tender her resignation to the Chief Minister.”

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