McArthor River Mine – Labor’s EPA Fails Science Test

The organisation that completed the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the McArthor River Mine has challenged the quality of the science applied the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as well as the process applied by the EPA to the review of the EIS.

“The company, URS Australia, has complained of a lack of due process by the EPA.” Shadow Mines Minister Fay Miller said today.

“Clearly the EPA didn’t communicate its concerns effectively with URS at all.

“In fact my earlier suspicion that the EPA raised the bar deliberately is firmed by the response from URS.

“The EPA rejected the mine largely on points that they didn’t seek to clarify with URS. The EPA asked several questions of URS but none related to flooding or river stability and they were the grounds upon which the EPA rejected the proposal.

“URS are understandably very annoyed that they were denied an opportunity to address these issues and clearly reject the findings of the EPA.

“It’s my opinion that the EPA and the Minister are happy not to see the mine go ahead because they have become captives of the ‘protect the environment at all costs’ philosophy. This government appointed the EPA and they are using it as a screen to divest themselves of responsibility of making decisions that would upset some of their traditional supporters.

“Again I call upon the Chief Minister to show leadership and intervene for the sake of common sense.

“The Member for Arnhem Barb McCarthy has at least nailed her colours to the mast it’s a pity the Chief Minister won’t.”

Media Contact: John Elferink - Email: john.elferink@nt.gov.au - Ph: 08 8901 4184 (m) 0418 506 633