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Councillors denied natural justice

A Government report into the failings of the Jabiru Town Council must be released immediately so councillors can have the opportunity to defend themselves, according to Shadow Minister for Local Government Dr Richard Lim.

Dr Lim said the Minister for Local Government had continued to criticise Jabiru councillors but he had denied them natural justice by not releasing the official report.

“For all I know, the Minister may have good reasons to criticise some councillors of the Jabiru Town Council,” Dr Lim said.

“But those aggrieved councillors are not able to respond to any of the criticisms as the report has not been made public.

“There is no natural justice in this behaviour.

“It is easy enough for the report to be released with any “named names” blacked out.

“It appears from comments made by the Minister that there could have been some serious breach of conduct and conflicts of interests over council business. If that is the case, there has to be some form of redress to these allegations by the persons concerned.

“The minister also criticises councillors for not understanding council policies and procedures. Why hasn’t he or his Department made any effort to ensure that councillors are provided with development and training to deal with their roles.

“I have read the sanitized summary of the report, which really gives no information, and yet the Minister and the Local Member for Arafura have made assertions from having read the entire report.

“This has been an unfair and one-sided debate.”

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