IT’S TIME TO RELEASE PAPUNYA AUDIT

Chief Minister Clare Martin has called for the immediate public release of the Commonwealth audit into the Papunya community.

The Chief Minister’s call follows today’s announcement by Sharman Stone, Parliamentary Secretary to the Federal Finance and Administration Minister, that there will be no public release of the audit into Commonwealth funded programs at Papunya.

“This audit has been an issue of extreme public interest since it was first announced,” Ms Martin said.

“It has also been a matter which has caused great distress to the people of Papunya.

“This whole exercise was launched as part of a political campaign cooked up by the CLP to try and discredit Labor candidate for Macdonnell, Alison Anderson, in the run-up to the Territory election.

“The audit was announced after claims by Ms Anderson’s CLP opponent, Jon Elferink, that millions of dollars in taxpayers money was unaccounted for at Papunya.

“It has now been confirmed that this is clearly not the case. Despite the attempt to publicly smear Ms Anderson, she went on to win the seat against Mr Elferink with a massive swing.

“At Ms Stone’s press conference today there was absolutely no suggestion the Commonwealth audit had found any impropriety whatsoever by Ms Anderson.

“Natural justice now demands this matter is properly closed so that Ms Anderson can get on with representing the people of her electorate. The only way that can happen is by publicly releasing the audit.

“Alison Anderson has had to endure the toughest of baptisms of fire of any politician I know. Not only have the police given her the all clear following claims by her estranged husband, but she’s also had deal with the exercise of the audit.

“Alison Anderson has come through both tests with her reputation firmly intact. The same cannot be said of who those raised allegations or others who revelled in them along the way,” Ms Martin said.

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