AN APOLOGY COSTS NOTHING

The Territory Opposition was pleased to hear the Chief Minister, Clare Martin, indicate she was willing to learn from the modus operandi of the outgoing Queensland Premier, Peter Beattie, and apologise when her Government makes a mistake.

On today’s Darwin ABC morning radio the Chief Minister said she’d learnt much from Peter Beattie, and recognised the value of apologising when Government got things wrong and then fix the problem.

“Having comprehensively bungled the process of local government reform, the Chief Minister has the perfect opportunity to put her newly made commitment into practice,” says Terry Mills, Acting Opposition Leader.

“Indeed, a genuine apology from the Chief Minister is the type of circuit breaker the discredited council amalgamations desperately needs.

“Clare Martin should apologise for failing to consult the people of the Territory about the planned amalgamations and promise a plebiscite on the amalgamations.

“The hostility at public meetings on the reform should have alerted the Chief Minister to the error of her ways.

“The opposition of the Cattleman’s Association, the Chamber of Commerce, the Minerals Council, Territory Construction Association, the Australian Trucking Industry Association, the Chair of the NT Business Council and the Northern Land Council should have confirmed it.

“But with Federal Labor Leader, Kevin Rudd, joining the CLP’s Dave Tollner and Adam Giles in calling for a plebiscite on the forced amalgamations, the Chief Minister is out of excuses for not listening to what the people want.”

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