GILES BUNGLES NHULUNBUY CRISIS

Member for Nhulunbuy, Lynne Walker, today moved to Censure Chief Minister, Adam Giles, for plunging Nhulunbuy into crisis and rolling over to accept Rio Tinto's decision to curtail the refinery.

“The mothballing of the alumina refinery in Nhulunbuy is a catastrophic event,” Ms Walker said.

“Adam Giles plunged the region of Nhulunbuy into crisis when he reneged on Terry Mill’s deal with Rio and failed to put any contingency plans in place.

“Adam Giles has totally bungled the handling of this situation and is allowing Rio to implement a brutal pace of industrial downturn despite a requirement in its Mineral Lease to operate a refinery.

“This crisis will rip the heart out of the North East Arnhem economy with an anticipated 1 to 2 per cent reduction in the Territory’s Gross State Product.

“Why isn't Adam Giles standing up for jobs, families, small businesses and public services that are all affected by this catastrophic announcement.”

Ms Walker said the Northern Territory Government has leverage, given the lease agreement with Rio stipulating that they can’t mine bauxite unless they operate the refinery, to go back and challenge this decision.

“Adam Giles has taken a back seat while Rio Tinto dictates the brutal pace of this disaster.

“Rio’s timeline of just eight months is unacceptable.

“Nowhere in Australia has this kind of downturn occurred under a two year period.

“Enough time needs to be given for everyone in the Nhulunbuy region to adjust to this change.

“Why won’t Adam Giles and the CLP step up and push for job certainty for the people of Nhulunbuy for at least the whole 2014 calendar year?

“Why is Adam Giles rolling rather than accepting his responsibilities?

“Adam Giles is supposed to be the Chief Minister of all of the Northern Territory so why won’t he stick up for the people of Nhulunbuy?”

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