LABOR SNUB SENDS WRONG MESSAGE

The failure of the Henderson Government to attend last night’s launch of the Indonesian Garden at Charles Darwin University continues Labor’s appalling history of neglect of the Asian region.

Shadow Minister for Multi-Cultural Affairs Peter Styles said the Henderson Government’s snub sends a terrible message to our regional neighbours.

“The occasion was of such significance that the Indonesian Ambassador travelled to Darwin from Canberra,” Mr Styles said.

“As well, the Queen was represented by Administrator Tom Pauling.

“But for reasons known only to itself, the Henderson Government was absent from this important event.

“Perhaps it’s a sign of the confusion within this inept Government that after 9 reshuffles in 2 years, the Chief Minister and his colleagues had no idea who should attend.

“The Northern Territory and Indonesia have historically enjoyed very strong ties – but these have been seriously damaged by eight years of Labor Party neglect.

“The Government’s focus on Chinese trade is well and good, but it must not neglect our traditional trading partners.

“The Henderson Government must learn to walk and chew gum at the same time.

“And while it’s doing that, the Chief Minister should explain why his Government snubbed last night’s significant event.”

Further comment: Peter Styles 0411 640 660