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THE WORST GOVERNMENT WE’VE EVER HAD

John Elferink MLA

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The Opposition will target the Henderson Government’s appalling mismanagement and lack of accountability when Parliament resumes this week.

Manager of Opposition Business, John Elferink, said the list of Territory Labor’s failures grows longer every week and as time rolls on it is clear this Government is the worst in the Territory’s history.

This is highlighted by the Chief Minister’s refusal to accept responsibility for systemic failures in the Territory’s child protection system.

“Paul Henderson’s refusal to accept responsibility is an appalling footnote to the tragedies that have occurred under the Labor Government’s watch,” Mr Elferink said.

“Paul Henderson has been a senior figure in the Labor Party as it defended the child protection system over many years despite a wealth of evidence showing it was failing Territory children in care.

“After repeated warnings dating back to 2003, Paul Henderson now admits we have the wrong system in place.

“His unwillingness to reform this failed system has left Territory children vulnerable and exposed when they should have been protected by Government.”

The Opposition will question the Chief Minister on his Government’s failure to investigate claims of bullying against whistleblower Susan Mansfield, who detailed shocking failings in child protection.

“Paul Henderson’s wet response to Ms Mansfield’s claims shows he condones bullying in the public sector,” Mr Elferink said.

“Also under scrutiny will be the shameful death of 800 cattle and horses at Mataranka Station and the Government’s failure to prosecute anybody in what is one of Australia’s worst cases of animal cruelty.

“Government tabled the Ombudsman’s report into this matter late on the final day of the October sittings to avoid scrutiny, and it was nearly three weeks before Minister in charge at the time of the deaths, Rob Knight, fronted media.

“The Government’s practice of using public servants as human shields will be attacked.

The sham behind the SIHIP Indigenous housing project will come under Opposition scrutiny.

“Government has failed to convince anybody there will be significantly more bedrooms at the end of the billion dollar project or whether the serious issue of Indigenous overcrowding will be addressed.

“We will also look at the farcical construction of Tiger Brennan Drive and the Government’s plans to close Marjorie Street as a result of its terrible planning processes, as well as the aero-med tender, which appears to cherry pick some aircraft manufacturers over others.

“The Government’s failed land release policies, the population exodus for interstate that demonstrates the true state of the Territory’s economy and its lack of policy to deal with the downturn in private investment spending will be examined.”

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