WAVE BYE-BYE TO DODGY BY-LAWS

John Elferink MLA

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The Henderson Government has been forced to back down on the dodgy by-laws it introduced to cover the Darwin Waterfront precinct.

Shadow Attorney General, John Elferink, brought a ‘delayed disallowance motion’ into Parliament this morning designed to overturn the by-laws, which could have seen fines of up to $13,300 imposed for a litany of trivial offences.

“The Government’s intention in the by-laws could have seen children as young as five penalised for entering the wrong toilet block or Waterfront patrons being slugged for abandoning a shopping trolley,” Mr Elferink said.

“These penalties are patently absurd and in the case of the children, unlawful. Government cannot be allowed to get away with passing sloppy, ill-considered legislation which it is their job to get right in the first place.

“Today in the Territory Parliament, I moved to force the Government to change these laws and gave them six months to do so to offset possible negative effects of disallowance. I did so with their full support and agreement, until Attorney General Delia Lawrie changed her mind and decided to back irresponsible law making.

“I was grateful for the support of Independent Member, Gerry Wood, who indicated he too would like to see some of the by-laws removed.”

Mr Elferink said Delia Lawrie is crumbling under the workload associated with holding both the Treasury and Attorney General’s portfolios and the wayward leadership of Paul Henderson.

“She erred in her handling of the $6000 fine for begging, on recent amendments to the Criminal Code and now this. Put simply, there is no excuse for bad laws and under Delia Lawrie, the Territory’s getting them by the spadeful.

“While I’m flattered by her suggestion that I have the power to close the Wave Pool, I just wish she had advised me I’d been appointed chairman of the Waterfront Corporation.

“Ms Lawrie should explain how, then, the wave pool operated for the best part of 12 months until by-laws were introduced earlier this year.”

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