MEDIA RELEASE

SQUEEZING THE LIMMEN

March 16th, 2012

The Country Liberals welcome the long-awaited declaration of Limmen National Park, but the Government must say why it's rushing through the Limmen Bight Marine Park plan.

Deputy Opposition Leader, Kezia Purick, said Territorians have just 60 days to determine the merits of the Limmen Bight proposal.

“It’s taken Labor 11 years to make a decision on the National Park, but now there’s a requirement for Territorians to assess the Marine Park proposal within two months,” Ms Purick said.

“As usual, Labor is putting politics ahead of process – and Territorians are being forced to make a decision without all the facts being put on the table.

“How long has Labor been sitting on the Marine Park proposal and why hasn't it consulted with Territorians before today?

“Regardless of what feedback it gets over the next 60 days, Government is certain to proceed with the establishment of a marine park in Limmen Bight.

“The Government's all over the place on marine parks.

“Last year the Chief Minister thumped the tub at an anti-marine park rally, now he's declaring his own Marine Park.

“The pros and cons of the Marine Park should be thoroughly worked through – not over 11 years, not over 60 days either.

“Karl Hampton’s comment on radio that the commercial seafood industry isn't a key stakeholder in the declaration of a marine park is an absolute disgrace and shows his disdain for business.

“This Minister is a disaster and if the Chief Minister has any sense he’ll dump him from the front bench, quick smart.”

Ms Purick said Government needs to answer some key questions including:

• How much of the park will be available for public access, and what will people do when they get there?
• What will Government do to eradicate feral pests like pigs and buffalo, what sort of weed management programs will operate and how much is being
Ms Purick said she supported the revised boundaries for the National Park, enabling the current proposed mining proposals to proceed.

“I trust that the Government won’t change the rules in relation to the legally granted exploration licenses.”

Further comment: Kezia Purick 0407 035 976