Media Release

WHY WON’T SHE?

Willem Westra van Holthe MLA

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The Minister for Local Government Malarndirri McCarthy must explain to Territorians why the Labor Government she represents will not release reports into the financial sustainability of the East and West Arnhem Shires, says Shadow Minister Willem Westra van Holthe.

“During Parliamentary Estimates in June I questioned the Minister as to why her government is keeping back this information from the very people it should be helping, the Shires, their constituents and their business operators,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“We can only deduce that the reason her government wants to be so secretive and act so unilaterally is because of the basket case they created from their rush to deliver amalgamations.

“The news in those reports must have been shocking, but all it prompted the government to do was commission further reports into all of the Shires.”

“The Shires are in dire need of surgery, after the government botched their implementation from day one.

“Since the last Territory election they have been asleep to the many problems they created in the regions, not just in the Shires but their response to crime, alcohol abuse and antisocial behaviour.

“The Country Liberals have committed to a review of the Shire model and listening to communities about their service needs.

“There needs to be jobs created from local government spending in the regions, but when it comes down to it, the Henderson Labor government is more likely to spend that money on consultant reports that never see the light of day.

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