21 February 2013

**Mills backflips on fire services**

Leader of the Opposition, Delia Lawrie, said today’s backflip by the current Chief Minister, Terry Mills, to keep the Humpty Doo fire station open is welcome and shows the dangerous decision should never have been entertained in the first place.

“A chorus of firefighters, rural residents, government, independent and opposition Members of Parliament fought Terry Mills’ outrageous decision to take firefighters out of the Humpty Doo station,” Mr Lawrie said.

“We’ve seen the community, firefighters, and even members of his own party mobilise against this idiotic move. It put the lives of Territorians at risk to save pennies – something everyone could see except Terry Mills.

“Serious questions must be asked of Terry Mills about how such a disastrous decision was made in the first place, and why he took so long to back down.”

Ms Lawrie said that today’s backflip is a real testament to people power, and the resolve by Territorians to be heard loud and clear.

“Our rural area is expanding in activity and population, and services provided by firefighters need to be supported and strengthened, not scrapped,” Ms Lawrie said.

Ms Lawrie said that Terry Mills’ claim that reports about scrapping the Jaws of Life and the Rescue Vehicle from the Palmerston fire station was misinformation from the Labor Party was absurd.

“Terry Mills has his head buried in the sand. On Tuesday 12 February 2013, he heard directly from a brave firefighter at a protest a plea to not scrap the rescue vehicle and Jaws of Life.”

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