A Wasted Opportunity

After continued public and media pressure, yesterday the CLP’s Larisa Lee finally broke her silence to profess her innocence, but provided no explanation, evidence or reasons for the anomalies on her fuel bills, said Michael Gunner, Shadow Minister for Government Accountability.

Mr Gunner said that the CLP’s Larisa Lee was forced out of hiding yesterday but provided no details on the very serious questions that have been raised for days on her taxpayer funded fuel bill, including:

- Why was Larisa Lee claiming taxpayer funded accommodation for her husband in Darwin while at the same time according to Larisa Lee he was filling up with taxpayer funded fuel over 700K away in Dunmarra?
- Why did Larisa Lee spend over $3,100 on fuel in January alone, which equates to over $100 a day?
- Why did Larisa Lee never fill up in her own electorate?
- Why did the Speaker claim Larisa Lee spent $14,402 yet Larisa Lee claimed she spent $17,415?
- Why was Larisa purchasing more petrol than her fuel tank could hold?
- Why did Larisa Lee purchase $324 worth of fuel and then less than 500 kilometres later fill up again?
- Did Larisa Lee fill up jerry cans for others? Her refusal to answer this last night spoke volumes.
- Why did Larisa Lee suddenly stop providing odometer readings in December?
- Larisa Lee claims she would welcome the Auditor General to investigate her – so why did Chief Minister Adam Giles refuse to request the Auditor General investigate and leave it the Opposition to do the right thing?

“The consistent refusal of the CLP to be open and transparent is why an independent inquiry into the misuse of taxpayers’ money is the best course of action,” said Mr Gunner.

“The CLPs Larisa Lee is the Deputy Chair of the Public Accounts Committee to which the Auditor General reports. That is a clear conflict. The Chief Minister needs to do the right thing and stand Larisa Lee down.

“Under similar circumstances, an employee would be sacked, forced to repay the money or face criminal charges. The Auditor General will be able to determine what is appropriate in this matter.”

Media Contact: Gino Luglietti 0401 119 794