CLP Price Hikes Hurting Communities

It was revealed today that the McDonnell Shire is no longer capable of meeting operational costs of its three community swimming pools - citing increased power and water tariffs implemented by the CLP Government Shadow Minister for Local Government, Lynne Walker, said today that Adam Giles’ massive price hikes hurt everyone, especially the most vulnerable in our communities.

“I was disappointed, but not surprised to learn today that community swimming pools in Santa Teresa, Areyonga and Kintore will cease operations due to the CLP’s power and water price hikes,” Ms Walker said.

“Remote and rural swimming pools result in improved health outcomes in communities, particularly children – and research shows that the children appear healthier since the pools have opened.

“We have seen a dramatic decrease in ear infections and severe skin sores since the establishment of these facilities.

“The swimming pools are a key element of the No School, No Pool policy. Principals have reported a marked increase in school attendance and an overall improvement in the children’s behaviour since this initiative was put in place.”

Ms Walker said it should be of real concern to all regional and remote communities that the CLP’s Minister for Local Government, Alison Anderson, couldn’t provide any detail of a plan to deal with this issue – nor did she seem to be fully across it when questioned today.

“During question time today, Alison Anderson all but avoided dealing with this question: beyond claiming she’d sent a letter to someone - the contents of which she would not reveal,” Ms Walker said.

“We need to know if other Shires are facing similar issues, and I call on Alison Anderson to guarantee to provide the McDonnell Shire with the assistance required to continue operation of their community pools.”

“What other core services that Shires are expected to deliver are at risk due to the CLP’s hefty power and water price hikes?”

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