KON VATSKALIS RETIRES FROM PARLIAMENT

Member for Casuarina, Kon Vatskalis, today announced he was retiring from politics, and would leave Parliament after the August sittings.

He said after a 13 year career in the Territory Parliament he was ready to devote more energy to his family,

“I want to thank the people of Casuarina for giving me the privilege of representing them for the past 13 years,” Mr Vatskalis said.

Mr Vatskalis was a Minister for the entire 11 years of the Martin and Henderson Governments, at various times holding the portfolios of Lands, Planning and Environment, Housing, Local Government, Ethnic Affairs, Transport, Infrastructure, Essential Services, Mines and Energy, Primary Industries and Fisheries, Health and Child Protection.

Labor Leader, Delia Lawrie paid tribute to Mr Vatskalis, describing him as an exceptional representative not only for the people of Casuarina, but also for the Territory.

“Kon was an excellent Minister who is credited with upgrading the accident and emergency departments of both Darwin and Alice Springs Hospitals as well as being the driving force behind the Territory having a stand-alone child protection agency,” Ms Lawrie said.

“In his Mines and Energy role he was also responsible for much of the Asian investment which the Territory enjoyed in the early part of this century.”

She said the by-election would be another opportunity for Territorians to send a message to Adam Giles about the cost of living and the unacceptable cuts to education, child protection and health.

“People in Casuarina are hurting like Territorians everywhere,” she said.

“The ballot box is a great way for Territorians to tell the Government that they don’t like the direction Adam Giles is taking us.”

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