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FEDERAL OPPOSITION LEADER'S VISIT TO NHULUNBUY

Local Member for Nhulunbuy, Lynne Walker, welcomed the Federal Leader of the Opposition, Bill Shorten, to Nhulunbuy today to meet with locals affected by the curtailment of the Rio Tinto refinery.

“Today we had the Federal Leader of the Opposition, Bill Shorten, joined by Federal Labor Member for Lingiari, Warren Snowdon, and Labor Senator, Nova Peris, visit Nhulunbuy to meet with local residents,” Ms Walker said.

“Mr Shorten was able to meet with the residents and businesses that make up the economic and social fabric of Nhulunbuy and the East Arnhem region.

“Generations of families, community organisations, businesses and senior school students were able to share their experiences and concerns with Mr Shorten.

“These people are facing the hard decision of whether to stay or leave Nhulunbuy.

“And as people pack up and leave, the services they provided will diminish.”

Mr Shorten heard firsthand the frustrations being felt by residents at the silence from the Federal Government, which has abandoned this important regional service hub.

Mr Shorten also travelled to Yirrkala and Gunyangarra and met with traditional owners of the different clan groups who are concerned about the negative impacts with the wind down of Rio’s operations.

“Every part of the community will be affected by the refinery's curtailment,” Ms Walker said.

“Since the decision by Rio Tinto to curtail the refinery in Nhulunbuy the residents of Nhulunbuy have been looking to the Territory and Federal Government for direction and assurances for their future, but have had no clear indication of what is planned for their town.

"It has been over two months since the announcement by Rio Tinto and the Chief Minister, Adam Giles, has failed to stand up for the Territorians that live in this region."
Mr Shorten joined the Territory Opposition in calling for the Federal Government to come to the table to offer assistance to the town of Nhulunbuy.

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