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CLP CLOSES NHULUNBUY SOBERING UP SHELTER

Member for Nhulunbuy, Lynne Walker, today expressed her disappointment and dismay with the CLP Government’s decision to close the sobering up shelter in Nhulunbuy.

“Earlier this week we learnt that the CLP Government was closing the purpose built rehabilitation centre in Nhulunbuy,” Ms Walker said.

“Fears have been confirmed that the sobering up shelter adjacent to the rehabilitation centre will also be closed and both parts will be converted into a 50-bed corrections facility.

“These are incredibly disappointing decisions by the CLP Government.”

Ms Walker said there has been no consultation with the community about the removal of these services and the conversion of buildings for an entirely different purpose.

“Community groups and traditional owners lobbied the Labor Government to build the 24 bed rehabilitation facility and 16 bed sobering up shelter as it would allow for alcohol management programs to be completed on country,” Ms Walker said.

“This facility, alongside the strong alcohol management plan targeting supply in Nhulunbuy, has delivered an effective system which has reduced alcohol related harm and with it a corresponding reduction in crime and domestic and family violence.

“Without these services in Nhulunbuy, what happens to those in need of the shelter’s service?”

Ms Walker said the CLP Government will also be removing the night patrol services from Nhulunbuy.

“Night patrols play a vital part in the alcohol management system in Nhulunbuy,” Ms Walker said.

“Does the CLP intend to replace this service with a police beat that leads to higher levels of incarceration in Nhulunbuy?”
“Without the sobering up shelter in Nhulunbuy where will the remaining night patrol services at Yirrkala and Gunyangarra drop off their clients?

“The CLP Government has failed to recognise the needs and aspirations of the community in making these decisions.

“They are dismantling a very effective system and service which has been operating since 2008 and replacing it with a prison.”

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