Adam Giles  
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory  

**Kenny should stop wasting the Auditor General’s time**  

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Ken Vowles should stop wasting the Auditor General’s time by muck-raking over a first class appointment to a position that is critical to the development of Northern Australia.  

“Terry Mills is the perfect person to promote the Territory’s interests in Asia. He speaks Bahasa and has extensive contacts in the region. I am proud he is working for the Territory in this role,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said  

“Instead of recognising how lucky we are to have someone of this quality lobbying for the Territory overseas, Labor has chosen to go on a partisan witch hunt to tear him down. They’ve turned a blind eye to Terry Mills’ credentials and are instead content to muck-rake.  

“Kenny Vowles should stop wasting the time of the Auditor General who has more important things to do like looking into Labor’s smelly Stella Maris deal and Delia’s dodgy surveys she’s been distributing to mislead the community.  

“My Department appointed Terry Mills as Commissioner after taking advice from the Solicitor General. Mr Mills simply asked to be paid through a private company which the Solicitor General has confirmed makes no difference to the nature of his appointment.  

“Kenny Vowles seems to be under some kind of misguided theory that appointing someone and paying them through a company is wrong but this is standard practice around the country.  

“When ex-Chief Minister Paul Henderson was appointed as an economic adviser to the Territory Government, he didn’t go through a recruitment process and also asked to be paid through his company. Curious that Labor has never complained about that appointment.  

“Like Terry Mills, Paul Henderson was chosen for his particular skills in this field. Is Kenny Vowles now saying that Paul Henderson wasn’t good enough to take on that role?”  

“The Solicitor General advises that appointments of this nature are made at the full discretion of the government of the day whose interests the person represents. The Government is fully entitled to make its own selection of the appropriate person for such as appointment.
“Governments throughout Australia routinely do this. The fact that Terry Mills is paid through a company makes no difference to this process.

“Kenny Vowles should be putting the Territory’s best interests ahead of his own political interests.

“It’s more proof that Labor’s not interested in supporting the development of Northern Australia – hardly a surprise after their 11 years of inaction.”

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