24th April 2003

CLP more irrelevant and inaccurate each day

Parks and Wildlife Minister, Kon Vatskalis, has slammed the CLP and the Member for Solomon Dave Tollner, for continuing the barrage of opposition towards the redevelopment of the Leanyer Recreation Park.

"With each passing day the CLP shows just how irrelevant they’ve become in community discussions, and how little they care for the enjoyment and safety of Territory families," Mr Vatskalis said

Mr Vatskalis said CLP member for Solomon, Dave Tollner, has letterboxed residents in Karama and Leanyer complaining about noise generated by Leanyer Recreation Park.

"In his letter, Mr Tollner claims ‘music from live bands has been so loud that windows have shook and that some residents were unable to hear the television in their homes while bands were playing at the facility’.

"I have been told a band did play at Leanyer Recreation Park recently, however they did so without a permit from Parks and Wildlife.

"In that instance, I’d strongly urge concerned residents to contact Police. Any performance at Leanyer Recreation Park must be permitted by Parks and Wildlife.

"Mr Tollner suggests loud music at the facility has been a regular occurrence. Clearly, he is either misled or mischievous.

"If he was familiar with Leanyer Recreation Park, he’d know the only area open to the public at the moment is the skate park, with the swimming area closed for redevelopment."

Mr Vatskalis said Mr Tollner’s lies follows negative calls already made by the CLP Opposition, slamming the project as a waste of money.

"Do we need to remind the CLP who built Leanyer Recreation Park? Do we need to remind them of the tragic loss of life at the facility because it was so poorly designed and constructed – so much so, the Coroner directed it be shut down until safety issues were addressed?," Mr Vatskalis said.

"Redevelopment plans for Leanyer Recreation Park were developed by a community-based taskforce, headed up by the Member for Karama Delia Lawrie MLA and the Member for Sanderson Len Kiely MLA.

"The Government advertised widely for community input and received responses from hundreds of people. But even this process was criticised by the CLP.

"The end result will be a safe, free, family-friendly facility that will be the envy of people around the country - a wet paradise in our tropical humidity.

"The CLP has done nothing but criticise in Opposition. They continue to show they haven’t learnt and haven’t changed."