Thursday 5th April 2007

THE TAJ MAHAL OF DIVERSIONS

The Territory Opposition have labelled the Labor Government’s announcement of the building of a boat ramp at East Arm a diversionary tactic in the face of mounting public anger about fishing permits.

“I welcome the construction of a boat ramp at East Arm, but can’t help notice the suspicious timing of the announcement,” says Terry Mills, Shadow Minister for Sport and Recreation.

“Spending public money to deflect public anger is standard operating procedure for this Government.

“The fact that tenders for the project won’t be called until June indicates the public announcement has been bought forward to counter mounting public anger over the fishing licence issue.

“Of course it won’t work – ordinary Territorians are rightly annoyed that we have arrived at a situation where licences will be needed to fish 80% of our intertidal coastal waters.

“The Martin Government’s self-professed belief in negotiation has failed ordinary fishers in the Territory.

“We are now staring at the prospect of fishing licences becoming a permanent fact of life in the Territory.

“We have already had a speed limit on the open road imposed by the Martin Government.

“Now another shackle is being placed on our freedoms.

“The Martin Government says it’s opposed to fishing licenses yet supports the ‘temporary’ permit system.

“Just as cynicism met the Government’s offer to provide meters for bores, even greater cynicism surrounds the Government’s promotion of temporary permits.”

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 833 594