Wadeye Residents Need to Understand the Mood Has Shifted

Reports in today’s national press that the councillors at Wadeye refused to clean up houses and send their kids to school because they thought they were being bullied, demonstrate the problems the “welfare culture” has created.

Leader of the Opposition Jodeen Carney said she was taken aback by the comments of the community leaders that it was ‘unrealistic’ to expect the local community members clean up their houses, remove graffiti, get the rocks off their roofs and get their kids to school.

“These are not unrealistic expectations. Anywhere else in the country there are obligations placed upon those who receive welfare benefits,” Ms Carney said.

“We have had decades of sit-down money being given to these communities and look where it has taken us: houses trashed, education and health standards not improving and continuing and unacceptable violence.

Minister Brough is right when he says that law and order need to be established in these communities before we go down the path of pouring in more money.

The Territory spends half its budget on Indigenous programs and we are not seeing any real improvements.

“Taxpayers are becoming increasingly frustrated by seeing their tax dollars poured into programs that fail.

“Addressing problems in communities needs a commitment from everyone involved, including the Aboriginal people themselves. Better outcomes will not be achieved by intransigence.

“Although the Chief Minister has not shown any leadership on this issue, she has an opportunity to have another go at it. She has been to Wadeye, and I hope she has spoken to the people at the community and convinced them that the only way forward is to send their kids to school, clean up their houses and show the same sort of commitment as the Federal Minister is showing.”