A TERRITORY politician who has publicly mouthed homophobic comments about a fellow Territorian has been heavily penalised by the Country Liberals for his actions.

David Tollner has apologised for his inappropriate remarks, but he has lost his Deputy Chief Minister’s role and his Ministerial portfolios, and approximately $300,000 a year in earnings.

Willem Westra van Holthe has publicly insulted Territorians who are opposed to hydraulic fracturing and has been unapologetic for his actions.

Many of those who have been insulted by the Member for Katherine in recent months are his own constituents, some of whom probably voted him into office. The Member for Katherine has publicly expressed a desire to be selected as the next Deputy Chief Minister. He is under consideration for this important role with his party.

The Country Liberals will have to give serious thought to this matter when choosing a new Deputy Leader.

It is ironic to consider that a politician has been heavily condemned for offensive behaviour to an individual, while another politician belonging to the same political party has been highly offensive to many Territorians and is now under consideration for the Deputy Leader role.

Bruce Francis, Katherine

The Qantas Hangar at Parap is celebrating 80 years with an open day over Father’s Day weekend. Leo Iوذ, also celebrating 80 years, will have some of his historic cars on show

Picture: ELISE DERWIN

ON OTHER THINGS

■ Two to four adult Dugongs a weekend and they last up to a month and a half? They must have a very large freezer to store them in! When I arrived in the Territory 22 years ago Dugongs could be seen in all areas of the harbour and surrounding areas. At least 2-4 could be seen each fishing trip, now I have not seen one for approximately 4 years. I know this is partially due to increased vessels but hunting must also have an impact. I have no problem with traditional hunting by traditional methods but the picture shows the hunters in an aluminium boat. This is not traditional and increases the odds in the hunters favour. Once non traditional methods are used controls and restrictions are needed. Mick of Wulagi

■ Mr Vigona-Daniels states ‘you don’t know how much dugongs are in the sea.’ Exactly. YOU don’t. There is plenty of evidence dugong numbers are dwindling through loss of habitat and hunting. They are beautiful animals and need to be retained as part of the ecosystem. Most people would be shocked at the cruelty involved in this method of hunting. Its not yr right to make yr own decisions and justify killing dugongs in a cruel manner. kim of darwin

ON MARIJUANA

■ Pardon the pun, but Lamberty’s medical ganja idea is nothing more than a smoke screen to hide CLP chaos! Bear in the Rum Jungle

■ Onya Robyn, you are taking a step in the right direction. The drug companies have kept this quiet for way too long. Don’t spend millions looking for a cure for cancer, just legalize it. Dodgey Brothers of Virginia

■ When you have watched successive MRI scans show an infant’s incapable brain tumour shrink to nothing following oral consumption of cannabis oil the size of half a grain of rice, it is impossible to oppose medicinal use. Likewise, when you have witnessed cancers erased completely with cannabis oil. Yet these proved cures are illegal while the AMA profits massively from radiology, surgery, and chemo which have long term success rates of only 5%. Tony

■ In the case of those suffering from terminal illnesses, it is a better alternative to Morphine. The person is pain free, yet able to interact with loved ones, as opposed to Morphine, which makes the person a zombie. The last few days with a loved one are extremely precious. Cynical of Darwin

ON DUGONG HUNTING

■ Just ban dugong hunting from powered boats. Problem solved.

■ Mr Vigona-Daniels takes 2-4 dugongs a weekend from our land. We are taking away the yearly total that’es allowed by ‘traditional owners’. They don’t stand a chance being chased in a dory with a 60 Yamaha attached!

■ I grew up in FNQ & I have seen dugongs & turtles left to rot after the prime meat was taken by ‘traditional owners’. There is plenty of evidence dugong numbers are dwindling through loss of habitat and hunting. They are beautiful animals and need to be retained as part of the ecosystem. Most people would be shocked at the cruelty involved in this method of hunting. Its not yr right to make yr own decisions and justify killing dugongs in a cruel manner. kim of darwin

■ Once non traditional methods are used controls and restrictions are needed — SEE BELOW

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