BILL TO PROTECT TERRITORIANS FROM VILIFICATION

Leader of the Opposition, Delia Lawrie, will tomorrow introduce into Territory Parliament a Bill to include protection against racial and religious vilification in Territory law.

“There is no place for racial discrimination in today’s society,” Ms Lawrie said.

“However the Territory is the only jurisdiction which does not have anti-vilification provisions in legislation.

“While the Federal Liberal Government appears to have backed off plans to water down section 18C of the federal Racial Discrimination Act it is crucial that Territorians are protected from incitement to racial and religious hatred.”

In May 2014 the Opposition Leader released a Discussion Paper seeking feedback from Territorians on the proposal and the Bill has been drafted in line with the feedback received.

“After consultation with multicultural, Indigenous, religious, legal and other organisations it is clear that Territorians support protection against encouragement to racial or religious hatred,” Ms Lawrie said.

“This Bill seeks to enshrine that principle in law to protect Territorians from racial and religious vilification.

“In May the Territory Parliament, on a bipartisan basis, supported a motion on changes to the Commonwealth Racial Discrimination Act and I am hopeful that the government will support my Bill when it is debated in the parliament in October.”

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