6 March 2015

SCULLION CUTS HURT INDIGENOUS TERRITORIANS

Leader of the Opposition Delia Lawrie said today that Federal CLP funding cuts to indigenous organisations will set indigenous employment targets back and harm regional economies.

“Indigenous organisations, businesses and services that work with our communities are still assessing the impact of Senator Nigel Scullion’s IAS cuts,” Ms Lawrie said.

Ms Lawrie called on Chief Minister Adam Giles to stand up for Territorians and fight to have cuts to programs reversed because early indications are that jobs are at risk.

“With Adam Giles' new-found awareness of Indigenous Affairs he must come clean and explain what jobs and support across the Territory will be lost under the Scullion knife,” Ms Lawrie said.

“We’re hearing that there are cuts to Indigenous ranger and land management programs that have been an outstanding success story in creating employment and caring for country.

Ms Lawrie said that currently there are about 320 people delivering ranger programs across the Territory.

“Ranger groups provide confidence to traditional owners that land and sea management is being attended too and if ranger funding applications have been rejected the consequence would be dire,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Indigenous organisations throughout the Territory are today counting the cost of a CLP Senator wielding cuts to programs and a CLP Government in the Territory that has failed to stand up for them.”

Media contact: Louise Connor 0438 241 211