Paul Bunker
President
NT Country Liberal Party

Maisie Austin to give Lingiari true representation

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Order of Australia recipient and author, Maisie Austin said as an Aboriginal Territorian she was stunned to hear Federal Labor Opposition Leader Mark Latham claim that most Australians would be surprised at the level of disadvantage suffered by Aborigines.

“How can a Labor Federal leader be expressing surprise at the level of Aboriginal disadvantage…what has he been doing all these years in Parliament. Aboriginal poverty is not something new. Mark Latham does Australians a disservice by suggesting they are not aware of the magnitude of the problem. If anything Australians would be surprised at the level of the Federal Labor Leader’s ignorance on the problem,” Mrs Austin said.

Mrs Austin said as an Aborigine growing up in the Territory she is saddened that no Government of either political persuasion has won the battle to conquer Aboriginal disadvantage.

But now it’s a fight she intends to take to Canberra herself if she wins the Federal seat for Lingiari at the next Federal election.

Mrs Austin was preselected in Katherine at the weekend to contest the seat for the CLP. She joins the CLP’s Federal team of Senator Nigel Scullion, and the Federal Member for Solomon David Tollner who were also pre-selected.

CLP President Paul Bunker said he was delighted to have Maisie Austin contesting Lingiari.

As well as being a successful Territory business woman Maisie Austin has been an outstanding contributor to the community.

Her experience on management and advisory bodies includes: Steering committee NT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sports Federation; executive member of NT University Council; chair Aboriginal Advisory Committee-NT University; NT Sports Awards Committee; executive member Business and Professional Women; inducted into the Pioneer Women’s Hall of Fame; Chief Minister’s Women’s Achievement winner; Inaugural chairperson Arafura Games.

“Maisie is Territorian through and through and will be a first class federal representative for the Territory – not just for Aboriginal Territorians, but for all Territorians,” Mr Bunker said.

“Lingiari is being poorly represented and it is clear the current Federal Member Labor’s Warren Snowdon doesn’t have his heart in it. How else could you explain him disappearing for five months to New York and leaving his electorate without representation.

Sadly the only time he seems to be in his electorate these days is if a television camera is there.”

Ends.