



Member for MacDonnell

John Elferink, MLA

Opposition Whip
Shadow Minister for Community Development
Housing; Local Government; Sport & Recreation
Regional Development

PO Box 3869 Alice Springs NT 0871

Telephone: 08 8952 9611

Facsimile: 08 8953 0211

M
E
D
I
A

R
E
L
E
A
S
E

28 January 2005

Accident Prone Minister Fails Territorians Again

The lack of action by the Sporting Minister John Ah Kit has resulted in the AFL cancelling this year's pre-season AFL match in Alice Springs according to Shadow Sports Minister John Elferink.

"Once again, John Ah Kit and the Martin Labor government have failed the sporting public of the Northern Territory and particularly Central Australians, by not providing leadership to ensure major sporting events go ahead," Mr Elferink said.

"In September last year we saw John Ah Kit's inability to secure Test cricket in the Territory until 2007. We have also seen how the Martin government failed miserably to deliver the Malaysian Airlines trial and now he has managed to bungle the AFL pre-season Wizard Cup game.

"Whether its sport or business, this government continues to fail to deliver for Territorians.

"The Minister for Sport has no idea of how to manage large, important sporting events and now, Central Australian's miss out on what has been proved as an incredibly popular event. It is up to John Ah Kit to ensure that he provides the leadership and resources for these matches to happen. If he really wanted it to happen, it would have happened.

"Laying the blame on others is typical of his responses to these matters and typical of the 'hands-off' approach of the Martin Government. It is only after these events are cancelled that he says that we should do something about it. The Minister deserves to be held accountable for his failure to act.

"But more worryingly, this is not the first time he has failed to act to secure these fantastic events and further questions must be asked about his capacity and ability to do his job properly".

ENDS



Media Contact: Jonathan Hawkes Ph: 08 8901 4184 Mobile: 0401 119 789
Email: jonathan.hawkes@nt.gov.au