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Opposition refuses to vote for historic freedom of information laws

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In what must be described as a sad day in local politics the Territory Opposition last night refused to support the Northern Territory's first Freedom of Information (FOI) laws, Minister for Justice and Attorney General, Dr Peter Toyne, said today.

"The Martin Government is extremely proud that the historic FOI laws were passed in Parliament last night, however, in a childish and disappointing display, the Opposition did not support its passing," he said.

"This is type of behaviour is hard to describe – it's truly backwards and must be designed to either cover secrets or try and keep people in the dark.

"The NT is the only place in Australia without these laws in place, a sad reflection on the previous administration, and it appears Denis Burke and his party still don't want Territorians to have access to information.

"This is a low, low moment in Territory politics and makes me wonder what Mr Burke and his party has to hide."

Dr Toyne said that the Martin Government was proud to be responsible for introducing such historic legislation, giving Territorians access to information that for so many years remained under lock and key.

"Territorians now have access to information that under the previous administration they were not allowed to see – it's a sad indictment on Denis Burke and his party that they still want to keep people in the dark."

The Territory's first FOI legislation was passed on 8th October.

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