Fynes puts heat on Giles Government over Facebook page

OPPOSITION Whip Natasha Fynes has asked the NT Auditor General to investigate the Giles Government’s management of the ‘Aboriginal Affairs NT’ Facebook page.

Ms Fynes claims the page, which has 2382 likes, potentially contravenes the provisions of the Public Information Act.

“The Aboriginal Affairs NT Facebook page contains a series of political images and slogans, attacks on Labor, photographs of Adam Giles and promotes CLP candidates characteristic of party political advertising,” Ms Fynes said.

“The Facebook page in question is completely political in nature but is designed to look like an official departmental page. Adam Giles should remove all the offending political advertising from the Office of Aboriginal Affairs Facebook page.”

Chief Minister Adam Giles denies any wrongdoing.

“It’s telling the message of what we’re doing in Aboriginal Affairs,” he said. Mr Giles said he wanted everything on the Facebook page to stay online.

Big musical names hit the Territory

TERRITORY Day has another musical act in its line-up — Shannon Noell will be performing in Palmerston, while Kasey Chambers will perform at Mindil Beach.

Shannon Noell will headline the first ever Palmerston Signature event, alongside Brotherhood of Phoenix and D-Town Funk. Kasey Chambers will support The Cat Empire at Mindil Beach, along with local artists Gaia, Roy MacKenery and Dave Spry & the Moral High Ground.

Member for Drysdale Lia Finocchiaro said Territory Day was “sacred and should be celebrated and cherished”.

“Territorians should not take for granted the importance of self-government,” she said. “Territory Day is a time to remember our fight to achieve independence from the Commonwealth.”

There are events happening across the Territory on July 1.

To find out what’s on in your area, visit territory-day.nt.gov.au.

Joyce hits back at accusations

CANBERRA: Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce has deflected conflict of interest accusations as “poo-throwing” exercises.

The Nationals leader is facing claims his party accepted $80,000 in donations from oil and gas producer Santos between 2011-15.

Mr Joyce’s independent rival in New England, former MP Tony Windsor, says it’s clearly a conflict of interest given the agriculture minister’s comments against mining in fertile agricultural land.

“How can the people of New England believe Mr Joyce when he is being funded by the very company they are fighting?” Mr Windsor said yesterday.

Dave Joyce did not address the claims directly but lamented Mr Windsor’s campaign strategy.

“It’s a very sad poo-throwing exercise,” he told reporters in Armidale.

Finke roars into Alice

REV-HEADS screeched into Alice Springs for the region’s biggest annual sporting event this week.

The army of four-wheel drive sites sprayed in red dirt and stacked with camping gear has rolled across Central Australia, providing a welcome economic sugar hit.

Alice Springs Town Council Mayor Damien Ryan said the Finke Desert Race provided “unestimated” value to businesses, accommodation providers, restaurants and roadhouses in and out of Alice Springs.

“It is the biggest event held in Central Australia,” he said. “On average each bike rider will be accompanied by six family and friends and each car driver by 10 crew.”

“Many stay a week or longer so the total is about 36,000 bed nights.”

Last year there were “unprecedented numbers” with 875 competitors, 22,000 paying spectators and 15,000 campers. Interstate competitor numbers reached 716, or 82 per cent of the field.

More than $6 million was injected into the region’s economy. Mr Ryan believes this could now top $10 million.

In his president’s welcome, Antony Yoffa described the race as a “key event” for the region. The Finke Desert Race is held over a 226km course from the start about 12km south of Alice Springs to the overnight stop at Finke on Sunday.

The field will race back to town on Monday.

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