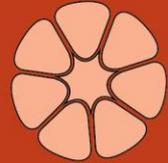




MEDIA RELEASE

MICHAEL GUNNER
SHADOW MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE



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PORT PRIVATISATION MUST GO TO AN ELECTION

Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Michael Gunner, today said that Territorians should ultimately have the final say on CLP plans for privatisation of the Port of Darwin.

"The Port is owned by Territorians and we simply believe that if you are selling something then you should get the permission of the owners," Mr Gunner said.

"After the majority of his team announced they wanted him dumped, Adam Giles said he *would 'ensure Territorians are at the forefront of all government decision-making'.*"

Mr Gunner said the first test will be whether Adam Giles lets Territorians decide whether the Port is privatised.

"The Chief Minister should be prepared to take his plans for the Port to an election – that would be a reasonable and measured approach to the sale of assets owned by Territorians," Mr Gunner said.

"The Committee needs to take a genuine approach to considering all options and that includes the current public model.

"The Government has agreed to an extension of time for the Committee's work from the initial 5 weeks proposed to 10 weeks.

"This still fails the public interest test – the Government is taking 6 months to look at the fuel price disclosure bill and if you walked down the street and asked people what's more important privatising the port or tackling the price of petrol, it will be the price of petrol hands down.

"The Government has also agreed that the Inquiry's Terms of Reference include an analysis of Port privatisations in other States.

"However the CLP have not promised to release all the documentation that they have in relation to the potential sale of the Port.

"This includes the Renewal Management Board report which they said would assess options for Government owned corporations, including the Port. The CLP promised they would release the report but are yet to do so even though it was completed nearly two years ago.

"If the Government are at all serious about involving Territorians in decision making they will release this report straight away. Territory taxpayers paid millions for this report. They should get to see it.

"Territorians know that the claim from Adam Giles that the Port won't be sold but just leased for 99 years is the Chief Minister just playing around with words," Mr Gunner said.

"We know that because when Adam Giles talks about 99 year leases on indigenous communities he describes them as a "sale" and "ownership" but when it comes to the Port apparently it is completely different.

"In Estimates Committee when discussing 99 year leases on the Tiwi Islands Adam Giles said, 'any person should be able to purchase a block of land and build a house on it'.

"Adam Giles says that if you have a 99 year lease on a home then you own it. The same applies to the Port."

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