



GARY HIGGINS
OPPOSITION LEADER

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For immediate release

Alice Springs icon in jeopardy

The National Aboriginal Art Gallery should be an iconic landmark project for Alice Springs and the nation.

The Territory Opposition supports this project being built in Alice Springs, not Adelaide and not anywhere else in Australia. The Northern Territory is the rightful home of this gallery.

Leader of the Opposition, Gary Higgins said the threat of compulsory acquisition of the land that Labor has deceitfully decided is the location for the gallery is the last measure of a government desperate to get its way.

“Should the government arrogantly proceed down this track the matter could be caught up in the court for years.

“This will mean South Australia will benefit from this government’s pig headed approach.

“Labor has failed the Territory on this project, commencing with their dismissal of their own expert steering committee’s recommendation on location.

“This whole saga, like the Pinelands debacle, reinforces the bully-boy tactics now being employed by the Labor government, devoid of genuine consultation or appreciation of community views.

“Labor’s failure to genuinely consult with key stakeholders, including the Alice Springs Town Council and its blatant disregard for community concerns will be the failing of this project.

“The Minister is wasting everyone’s time with a fake and flawed consultation process that simply reinforces the disregard she has for those Territorians who stand to be affected.

“The so-called open and transparent Labor government sent its long winded statement on Friday afternoon, clearly hoping to pass its heavy handed approach under the radar.

“Territorians are smarter than that,” said Mr Higgins.

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