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MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 2 July, 2009

COALITION WELCOMES LABOR'S ABOUT FACE ON "THE BLOCK" DEVELOPMENT

Like so many communities across the State, the Aboriginal community at 'The Block' has waited years for State Labor to respond to the community's desires for its own local development.

"The go-ahead for development on 'The Block' has been a long time coming because of State Labor's incompetence and obstructiveness but the Coalition welcomes the belated announcement," Shadow Minister for Redfern-Waterloo, Brad Hazzard said today.

"Who could forget Frank Sartor's comment to Mick Mundine insultingly telling him to get himself along to discuss the issue a few years ago?

"The Aboriginal community through the Aboriginal Housing Company has been trying to address the problems of their own community through their own strategic redevelopment proposal at 'The Block' for more than a decade.

"A succession of Labor administrations have failed to listen to the community's concerns and have stymied every effort by the local community to get development on 'The Block'.

"State Labor continued for years to arrogantly tell the local community what it needed just like Labor does all across the State with local communities.

"In this case, State Labor made it clear it didn't want any Aboriginal housing on 'The Block'.

"The issue should always have been about working with the community to get the right mix of housing on 'The Block', ensuring opportunities for low cost housing as well as mainstream housing and associated cultural and social facilities.

"Mick Mundine and the Aboriginal Housing Company are role models for communities all across this State to show that you can win against the incompetent and inexperienced State Labor Government – but it takes tenacity.

"Labor's incompetence has seen it talk the talk but not walk the walk of assisting less privileged communities including those living on 'The Block'.

"The Liberal/Nationals have stood shoulder to shoulder with the community at 'The Block' for a decade trying to get a fair consideration of the proposed development and we will continue to work with the community to achieve positive outcomes as the new housing opportunities proceeds," said Brad Hazzard.

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