

CLP secrecy brings a flood of protest

By MARIA BILLIAS

THE long-awaited \$750,000 report into flooding at Rapid Creek has still not been released by the CLP Government — despite several promises that it would do so.

Instead, Lands, Planning and Environment Minister Peter Chandler has said he would prefer to “raise awareness” of flooding through a draft action plan. That was also not available for release yesterday.

On ABC radio yesterday, when pressed on when he would release the report, Mr Chandler said that he thought residents wanted “action” rather than to read



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the detailed findings of the report. He said the Government had combined the findings of a number of studies and had come up with an action plan.

However late yesterday, in a statement to the *NT News*,

his office said once the draft technical report had been finalised “it would be assessed” prior to public release. The technical report has formed the draft action plan that is being consulted on with affected residents.

This draft action plan has not been released, but will instead be discussed with local residents who have been “invited” by letter to provide feedback on it.

Flood waters from the swollen Rapid Creek reached a peak of 3.74m, and, combined with a high tide, resulted in the inundation of more than 100 homes near Rapid Creek in the lead-up to Cyclone Carlos in February,

2011. Prior to the NT election last year the Country Liberals pledged \$1.5 million towards flood mitigation in the area, commissioning the report once winning office and saying it would be available for public comment.

Labor's Member for Johnston Ken Vowles called on the NT Government to “honour their election commitment, end the secrecy and immediately release all the reports and studies”.

“This is just not good enough. To say they were going to fix this issue, but now to say they want to ‘raise awareness’... well I am sure the people of Rapid Creek already had their awareness

raised when they flooded in 2011, and this is just another kick in the face to them,” Mr Vowles said.

Resident Jade Appleton, whose house was severely damaged during the floods, said not releasing the report was an insult to residents.

“The Government now talking about increasing awareness is an insult for the people who are more than aware of these problems,” Ms Appleton said.

“What is the Government trying to hide? Why can't we see the scientific detail? Instead we have to rely on tidbits of information that may suit the Government.”

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