



Beazley ... 'level of mistrust'

Divide and rule slowed growth: Beazley

CANBERRA: Northern Territory Chief Minister Shane Stone's resignation was not surprising and his handling of NT Statehood was largely to blame, Opposition Leader Kim Beazley said yesterday.

Mr Stone yesterday announced his resignation, citing his failure to win support for NT Statehood as a reason for his departure.

He said CLP colleagues had been snapping at his heels for some time and his heart was no longer in the job.

Mr Beazley said: "I don't think it really is a surprise.

"Shane Stone's method of governing the Northern Territory, the sort of divide and rule that he's pursued on racial grounds, for example, has stymied the capacity of that Territory to proceed to Statehood.

Simple

"(He) has built a level of mistrust in the community whereby they could not pass a referendum which one would have thought would have been a simple one to get through on whether or not you want the Northern Territory to become a State.

"So he holds back the development of the Northern Territory, he knows that.

"I think the problem, however, is more than Shane Stone.

"As far as the Territory is concerned, his own party across the board, conducts itself in a way that is not helpful to the unity of the people of that Territory."

The Stone revolt: how it happened



Clairvoyant Zandra Marie de Vere ... Mr Stone will move into federal politics

Zandra sees Stone's future

Former chief minister Shane Stone will leave Darwin and move into federal politics.

At least so says clairvoyant Zandra Marie de Vere - and following her recent predictions she is most probably right.

In a Northern Territory News article published last year Zandra Marie predicted Mrs Hickey would "step away from her political career before 2002 because of personal reasons".

Mrs Hickey announced her resignation as Opposition Leader just last week because of her husband's illness.

And in the same September 5, 1998, article Zandra Marie predicted there were many people who wanted Mr Stone out of the chief minister's job.

On Sunday Mr Stone announced his resignation from the chief minister's position amid pressure from backbenchers. Zandra Marie of-

fered more predictions about Mr Stone's future yesterday.

She said: "He will go into a major business deal.

"He won't stay in Darwin because of an uncomfortableness due to other parties.

"I believe after this business venture he will move away from Darwin into federal politics, and be quite good. He is too young to give up politics."

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By GREG THOMSON

The backbench revolt which ended in Shane Stone's resignation yesterday began when long-time leadership aspirant Barry Coulter finally ruled out a bid for chief minister.

Mr Coulter was approached by a group of disenchanted backbenchers on the day Opposition Leader Maggie Hickey stunned parliamentarians with news she was resigning from Labor's top job.

Last night, Mr Coulter refused to discuss whether he had even been a candidate.

By the time the ALP had elected Clare Martin as Leader last Wednesday the backbenchers had grown more concerned.

Mr Coulter then finally ruled himself out as a contender - thus diffusing the possibility of a damaging three-way tussle with Denis Burke and Shane Stone.

Guaranteed

With Mr Coulter no longer a candidate, there was only one contender in Denis Burke, and that is why he was guaranteed the job.

A group of CLP MLAs, including Chris Lugg (Nelson), Phil Mitchell (Millner), Terry McCarthy (Goyder) and former Stone minister Steve Hatton (Nightcliff), met on Thursday to discuss Denis Burke's succession.

By Friday, and with a majority of the CLP's eight backbenchers on side, they enlisted the support of ministers Peter Adamson and Tim Baldwin.

Mr Adamson and Mr Stone had a falling out over education policy, with Mr Adamson demoted to last on the Cabinet list when Tim Baldwin was appointed as a new minister.

As with most of his colleagues yesterday, Mr Adamson remained silent on his role in the leadership spill. The job of penning the letter of no-confidence in



Mr Stone ... revolt



Mr Adamson ... letter

Mr Stone, however, was given to Mr Adamson, a former journalist.

The letter told Mr Stone that the undersigned no longer had confidence in him and requested politely that he resign by Monday.

Within three short hours, only four CLP MLAs had not signed the letter.

They are: Deputy Chief Minister Mike Reed, Primary Industry and Fisheries Minister Mick Palmer, Resource Development Minister Eric Poole and MacDonnell MLA John Elferink.

Mr Palmer and Mr Elferink were out of the country, Mr Poole was in Alice Springs, and the signature of Mr Reed, in the end, was not needed.

The 13 who did sign are: Mr Burke, Mr Coulter, Asian Relations and Trade Minister Daryl Manzie, Mr Baldwin, Mr Adamson, Mr Mitchell, Mr McCarthy, Mr Hatton, Mr Lugg, Speaker Loraine Braham, Steve Balch (Jingili), Steve Dunham (Drysdale) and Greatorex MLA Richard Lim.



Mother's milk from cows: new gene row

AUCKLAND: The Green Party has slammed a NZ Government research project to put human genes into cows so their milk is like human breast milk.

The proposal has outraged the Greens and they have called for public debate on the proposition.

But excited Agresearch scientist Phil L'Huillier said it was a world first.

He said: "There are opportunities in the area. There are a number of companies using goats and sheep for the production of drugs but no one is doing anything like this."

Agresearch plans three genetic modifications.

The Greens said it was outrageous taxpayer money was being used for the proposal and the ethics of the issue needed to be discussed.

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