



2 March 1999

Hon Shane Stone MLA
Parliament House
DARWIN NT 0800

Dear Shane

You know that I was saddened to hear of your decision to retire as Chief Minister of Australia's Northern Territory. While the business sector will do well from your contribution in the years ahead, public life will be a less interesting, challenging and progressive place in the wake of your departure.

On the Government benches in Canberra, I sit next to Phil Barissi and I know he shares my disappointment at your departure.

I know your list of achievements is long. I remember my part in some of the early initiatives with great pride. Nevertheless you have brought the Northern Territory back into the front line of debate across Australia. Territory issues benefited from your contribution but mostly from your capacity to generate interest and concern in Governments and in the wider community Australia wide.

The goal you have pursued most vigorously and effectively (national recognition for the Territory) is and will remain the issue most important to Territorians. It is ironic that for most NT politicians, this issue remains a pipe-dream or a political plaything.

You invested a great deal of time and energy building a network of support for the Territory that extends from Canberra across the nation. I hope it remains in place, but I fear the laws of gravity will naturally apply.

If ever I can repay the faith and support you have given me over the years, I look forward to your call. Please pass on my best wishes to Josie and your family.

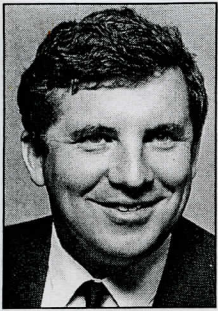
Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cameron Thompson".

Cameron Thompson
Federal Member for Blair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY



MEMBER FOR PORT DARWIN

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5 May, 1999

Mr Cameron Thompson MHR
Federal Member for Blair
PO Box 5115
BRASSALL QUEENSLAND 4305

Dear Cameron

Thank you for your letter of March 2. I apologise for not responding earlier but I have been endeavouring to deal with an avalanche of mail received from within the Territory, interstate and overseas following on from my resignation.

All of those letters have been written in very personal terms, such as your own, and each of them deserves an equally personal response.

No doubt you will have gleaned some of the background surrounding my departure. I had intended to leave in June in any event but the timetable was accelerated and, quite frankly, I am pleased to be gone.

I was very proud of you when you won the seat of Blair and sent Pauline Hanson on her way.

It must be a fascinating experience for you and Phil to be sitting next to each other in Parliament and you should not be disappointed at my departure but, rather, pleased at the prospect that I am likely to be your new Federal President.

Thank you for the very kind remarks made in your letter. You can be assured of my continuing support and encouragement with your own career in the time ahead.

My contact details are as follows:

Business Address:

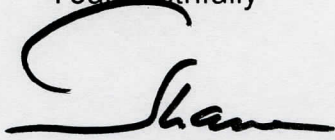
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My warm regards to you and your family.

Yours faithfully



Shane L. Stone