

**EDITORIAL, October 7, 1995**

# Shake 'em up, Mr Stone

**T**HE Territory Government seems curiously unfocused and out of sorts nearly 18 months after the general election and five months after a change of leadership.

The problem almost certainly is the Cabinet.

The appearance there is that individual members are acting pretty well as individuals without too much regard for conventions such as cabinet solidarity.

In the past couple of weeks, when this newspaper attempted to find out where various roaming ministers were, no one seemed to know exactly.

At least three were overseas, others interstate, and those minding the shop did not seem to have much of an idea about policy — meaning there is no policy except that made by the acting minister, usually on the spur of the moment or as the mood takes him.

Chief Minister Shane Stone is putting in a brave effort trying to run the dilapidated show he inherited in June and has not had enough gumption to change.

The time is approaching rapidly when he won't have a choice. Some of the tired old faces will have to go.

A few have too much on their plates. And others who probably should remain in cabinet, may be better employed in new jobs, or at least jobs they enjoy.

For example, Conservation and Tourism Minister Barry Coulter has been concentrating almost exclusively on the elusive railway for the past few weeks. That should be his only job.

At least two or three others from the generation of 1983 should be given a spell on the backbench. They were reported as threatening to resign if demoted in June. Fine, let them.

That would be a small price to pay for Mr Stone to establish his authority in Cabinet firmly and effectively.