The CLP supports the proposed residential development at Mitchell Creek to be permanently re-zoned as a 03 conservation area, Leader Terry Mills said today.

“Today I presented to Parliament a petition with more than 1000 signatures on it. The petition and the overwhelming feeling of support behind it is, in itself enough to tell the Planning Minister to step in and put a permanent stop to the development of housing along the fragile upper reaches of the Mitchell Creek escarpment,” Mr Mills said.

A Greening Australia NT study has identified the area as home to the Atrovirens Eucalyptus, a rare breed of Eucalyptus tree found in only two regions of the Northern Territory as well as the endangered pigmy goanna.

“Seventeen lots in section 7.6 that back onto the Kay Plateau escarpment are under threat of development if developer Delfin gets its way. Here we have a wonderful natural environment which locals enjoy for its peaceful bush setting, long winding pathways and local flora and fauna.

“Aside from the beauty of the Mitchell Creek escarpment is the ongoing issue of drainage. Residents have voiced their concerns to me that there are seasonal drainage problems which regularly see water gushing through the gully every wet season. This is yet another argument that shows Palmerston's only freshwater creek should be permanently re-zoned as a conservation area.

“The Chase development threatens a very fragile and beautiful ecosystem. There are plenty of housing estate developments throughout Palmerston but very few areas remaining as special as this leafy sanctuary right in the heart of Palmerston. It must be protected because once it's gone, it's gone forever.

Ends