The Henderson Government’s decision to scrap the annual Bass in the Dust concert in Alice Springs is another slap in the face to Central Australia.

Shadow Minister for Central Australia Matt Conlan said the decision furthers the already growing divide between Darwin and Alice Springs and highlights how little Labor cares about residents south of the Berrimah Line.

“The Henderson Government appears to have been planning to take the axe to Bass in the Dust for some time now,” Mr Conlan said.

“Funding for Major Events, which staged the concert, was slashed by $1.1 million in this year’s budget. Alice Springs has been forced to bear the brunt of the Government’s cuts.”

Mr Conlan said if Labor had wanted Bass in the Dust to succeed, it should have spent more money on marketing and promotions and tried to lure similar acts to Alice Springs as those that make Bass in the Grass such a success.

“I note that the Government is now spending $200,000 to bring Jimmy Barnes and Cat Empire to town,” Mr Conlan said.

“With due respect to Barnsey, who’s an Australian rock legend, his promoters recently cancelled a concert in Alice Springs because of lack of public interest.

“Now Labor’s using taxpayers’ money to prop up a tour that won’t have anywhere near the same appeal to the young people of Alice Springs as say The Presets or Wolfmother.

“This wouldn’t happen in Darwin.

“Why hasn’t the Minister for Central Australia, Karl Hampton, got the guts to announce himself that Bass in the Dust has been cancelled. Instead it’s just a small line in a media release.

“Yet again, it shows he doesn’t go into bat for Alice Springs.”