The Chief Minister should release Treasury’s advice on the impact the Commonwealth’s planned health reforms will have on service delivery in the Northern Territory.

Shadow Health Minister Matt Conlan said Territorians have a right to know how the reforms will affect health service delivery, the financial implication, the impact on patient care and the precedent set by the Commonwealth’s plan.

“I understand today the Chief Minister gave his imprimatur to the health reform plan,” Mr Conlan said.

“The Opposition is keeping an open mind, but isn’t satisfied with the level of detail that has come from the Henderson Government at this stage.

“Territorians are entitled to see Treasury’s advice on this very important issue. In the interests of transparency, it should be made public.

“I was interested to see the advice given by the Tasmanian Treasury expressing concerns about the Commonwealth’s raid on the GST and the worrying precedent that this sets.

“The release of the Territory Treasury’s assessment of the package will give Territorians an insight into the Chief Minister’s mind-set as he takes part in COAG negotiations next week.”

Mr Conlan said he still has concerns about the Commonwealth having a larger role in the administration of the Territory’s health services.

“SIHIP is the most recent example of how services are delivered when the Territory and Commonwealth governments get together,” he said.

“The Opposition acknowledges that considerably more money is needed to meet our health commitments into the future – but that shouldn’t be at the expense of regional autonomy.”

Further comment: Matt Conlan 0408 805 338