Tonight’s passage of a Country Liberals’ Bill through the Northern Territory Parliament was a heartening example of political bi-partisanship and a victory for commonsense.

Opposition Leader, Terry Mills, said the passage of the Police Administration Amendment (Service Medal) Bill through the Assembly was a triumph of good sense over dogma.

"While I certainly don’t expect this to set a precedent, it was gratifying this legislation was supported by the House," Mr Mills said.

"The Amendment was designed to ensure that only officers with 10 years service in the Northern Territory are eligible for the Police Service Medal.

"The amendment was intended to prevent officers receiving the Territory’s Service Medal with a combined 10 years of service in the Territory and another jurisdiction.

"While I have the utmost respect for officers who come to the Territory from interstate, I think it is appropriate that 10 years of service in several jurisdictions be recognised with a national award.

"Under the provisions of the Bill, the entire 10 years of service is to be with the Territory police force or on secondment to a prescribed organisation such as the Police Association or Australian Crime Commission.

"If a member resigns before completing 10 years service, and is subsequently reappointed as a member within two years, the period of service prior to resignation will be counted towards the awarding of the medal."

Mr Mills said the May sittings had been productive for the Country Liberals.

"In addition to this Bill, two of our motions, one tonight on public housing in Alice Springs and another last week on Carey Builders, have also passed through the Assembly," he said.

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 833 594