Resources Minister Kon Vatskalis should get off the fence and commit to supporting the Rudd Labor Government’s 40% Resource Super Profit Tax – otherwise he should say whether he opposes it.

On the ABC's Stateline program on Friday night, Mr Vatskalis dodged the question when asked whether the Commonwealth should change the tax.

Shadow Resources Minster, Willem Westra van Holthe, said while Mr Vatskalis spoke of the need for certainty for the resources industry, he refused to provide any certainty to the Territory by stating whether or not he supported the tax.

"Kon Vatskalis’ failure to condemn the tax will give little confidence to the resources sector in the that the Minister is fighting for the best deal for them and, by definition, Territorians.

"Resources contribute 26.5% to the Territory’s Gross State Product and are responsible for about 4000 jobs, yet this Labor Government refuses to take the attack to the Commonwealth Government over its ill-conceived tax plan.

"Mr Vatskalis refused to answer whether there are any aspects of the new tax he’d like the Commonwealth to re-consider.

"He also squibbed on whether the tax would deter investment if the profit threshold isn’t raised beyond the current rate of about 5.75%.

"Mr Vatskalis said he will ‘make our views very very clear to Martin Ferguson what we believe should happen’ when he attends the Ministerial Council on Resources in Melbourne.

"He should start by telling Territorians what he believes should happen. At the very least he owes that level of certainty to the Territory resources sector."

Further comment: Willem Westra van Holthe 0414 778 430