DON'T ASK, DON'T KNOW, DON'T CHECK

“The re-opening of Darwin’s beaches is a timely opportunity to review the Labor government’s failure to protect Darwin Harbour” says Country Liberals Shadow Environment Minister Peter Chandler.

‘In April, I asked of Minister Karl Hampton - How effective is the government at fining itself for polluting the environment?

“The answer is, they are not effective at all.

“They don’t fine themselves because they don’t have a comprehensive harbour monitoring program, they don’t monitor licensed discharges and because they just don’t bother to check.” he said.

Since the introduction of the relevant Waste Discharge License legislation in the 1990s there have been no prosecutions for breaches under the Act.

“Not one polluter has been held to account” said Mr Chandler.

Further, a review of documentation tabled by government on 9 June 2010 of the 28 Quarterly monitoring sites of the Aquatic Health Unit shows that there is no water quality sampling site off city beaches, there is no sampling sites at the Larrakeyah or Ludmilla sewage outfalls and there are no sampling sites off the Nightcliff and Casuarina Beaches.

“It is inconceivable that a government which issues pollution licenses isn’t checking the discharges of the PowerWater Corporation and stormwater runoff in the area from Larrakeyah to Lee Point.

“This government is running blind to the fact of harbour pollution by nutrient runoff.

“It doesn’t understand the problem, and it just doesn’t care.

Further comment: Peter Chandler 0429 076 493