The Federal election campaign should not be used as an excuse to withhold the release of the Montara oil spill inquiry report, says Shadow Resources Minister Willem Westra van Holthe.

"Last month, Federal Resources Minister Martin Ferguson said the report’s public release would be delayed due to ‘legal constraints’," says Mr Westra van Holthe.

"With the Federal election campaign now underway, the Minister should not now hide behind the caretaker conventions to prevent the report’s release.

"The report was handed to the Federal Minister six weeks ago, ample time for legal issues to have been ironed out.

"For the Federal Minister to have even a shred of credibility he should have either released the report before the election campaign or he should release it now.

"Failing that, if Territory Minister Kon Vatskalis has a copy of the report, he should make it public.

"There’s no doubt the report will be critical of both the Territory and Federal governments’ regulatory capacities and the community deserves an opportunity to scrutinise its findings before they go the polls.

"It will be interesting to see how The Greens feel about the causes and response to the spill on the back of their preference deal with the Labor Party.

"Millions of litres of oil spilled for more than 70 days into the Timor Sea from August 21st last year.

"Almost 12 months later, the country deserves some answers about what caused this environmental disaster and what will be done to prevent a similar disaster from occurring again.”

Further comment: Willem Westra van Holthe 0414 778 430