Shadow Resources Minister, Willem Westra van Holthe, will travel to Queensland this week to attend a meeting that will focus in part on last year’s disastrous Montara oil spill.

Mr Westra van Holthe will use his attendance at the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA) environment conference to better understand the circumstances surrounding one of Australia’s worst environmental disasters.

“I’m hoping the conference will provide a level of insight and scrutiny into the disaster that the Labor Party has failed to deliver,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“It’s more than a year since the commencement of the spill, which gushed tens-of-millions of litres of oil across an area about 6000 square kilometres over a period of almost three months.

Despite the report into the causes of the spill being handed to the Commonwealth Government on June 17th, the findings still haven’t been made public.

Henderson Government Minister Kon Vatskalis claimed this was because the Federal Government was in caretaker mode, an excuse which simply doesn’t stack up.

“Labor had no problem releasing the inquiry into rorts associated with the Building the Education Revolution program when it thought it could serve an electoral purpose.

The failure by Minister Vatskalis and others in the Henderson Government to pressure the Commonwealth into releasing the inquiry report suggests its findings point to neglect, mismanagement or both.

“It’s unacceptable to sit on the findings, no matter how damaging they are to Labor.

“The report should be released immediately.”

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