Why Won’t the CLP Stand Up For Territorians?

Environment Minister Karl Hampton today called on CLP Leader Terry Mills to condemn the beverage industry for opposing the popular cash for containers scheme in the Territory.

“Once again Terry Mills has gone into hiding to avoid answering the tough questions,” Mr Hampton said.

“The question is simple – does the CLP support cash for containers in the Territory?

“The truth is the CLP Opposition Leader and his supporters within the CLP Party Room are frightened of upsetting the beverage industry and won’t stand up for Territorians.

“Not once has the CLP been critical of the beverage industry - the key question is why.

“If the CLP really want cash for containers in the Territory it would join this Government in condemning the industry for threatening legal action and would urge it to back off.

“But instead of doing this the CLP continue to side with big business from down south.

“This includes Environment spokesman Peter Chandler saying on radio today he would prefer adopting a New Zealand model run by industry.

“When pressed he had to admit this scheme doesn’t return cash to consumers at all.

“Mr Chandler is also wrong when he says amending the Constitution is the best way to support the successful introduction and implementation of the scheme - this has nothing to do with amending the Constitution.

“It is a ridiculous suggestion and shows how little Peter Chandler understands the issue.

“The best way to support the scheme is to convince the beverage industry to drop its threat of legal challenge and to get on with implementing the scheme.

“The Territory Government is the greenest in the Territory’s history and cash for cans will also help meet targets within the Territory 2030 strategic plan that includes reducing the amount of waste being taken to our rubbish dumps by 50% by 2020.”

Media contact: Edwin Edlund 0401 119 563