The arranged resolution between the Public Prosecutor and the Darwin Port Corporation over the East Arm Wharf pollution scandal is an example of another law case where poor operational practices by government agencies have been swept under the carpet. Says Shadow Justice Minister John Elferink.

"The Labor Government in the Territory believes it is above the law when it comes to accountability in the court system", says Mr Elferink.

"It has a history of sweeping away prosecutions, and closing down investigations into its ongoing maladministration.

"In just this third term of government, it has interfered with a prosecution over Building Certification in Tennant Creek, highlighting an ongoing failure to ensure government buildings and private residences are constructed to code.

"It failed to prosecute as a result of the Mataranka cattle deaths, even when departmental staff and the Ombudsman's office recommended prosecutions relating to the deaths of hundreds of cattle and horses.

"The Labor Government has continually ignored the pollution issues plaguing Darwin’s beaches, only recently taking steps to implement a review - not investigate breaches of the law, and the PowerWater Corporation has not even been investigated, let alone prosecuted, for exceeding its discharge licence limits of sewage and wastewater at its disposal outfalls in the harbour.

"This plea bargain by the Port Corporation will now result in a slap on the wrist, not real action on pollution or offending.

"Behind closed doors, the Henderson Labor Government once again attempts to be a law unto themselves when they promise a tough response."

Further comment: John Elferink 0418 406 400