Media reports of an uncontrolled release of pollution from Berrimah Prison demonstrates that continued vigilance is needed to protect Darwin Harbour and creek water quality in the catchment, says Shadow Environment Minister Peter Chandler.

“In June this year I raised the issue of licensed waste discharge from Berrimah Prison with Labor Minister Karl Hampton”

Minister Hampton said it didn’t happen, but I recounted to him the evidence of pollution in creeks downstream of the Prison. Today we learn that again the prison had an uncontrolled discharge of wastewater.

I call on the Minister to release the details of the new Waste Discharge License for the Prison

Departmental officers were working on the license earlier this year. It would be remiss of government not to set the bar at a level consistent with modern standards as we enter the new wet season.

It’s also a concern that the reporting of monitoring of pollution in Darwin Harbour has fallen off the radar.

In September I received an update on the scope of the Department’s monitoring program. It is odd that so soon after, the reporting of results has ceased.

“The commitments of the Labor Government to regular sampling in the harbour and its catchments seem to be so much hot air.”

I urge the community to be proactive in reporting unusual water conditions to the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment - Pollution Hotline on 1800 064 567.

Further comment: Peter Chandler 0429 076 493