The Chief Minister’s tour of a prospective light rail route has been derailed by a Cabinet submission showing the plan had its origins when the Country Liberal Party was in Government back in 1980.

Opposition Leader Terry Mills said the Cabinet documents reveal the planning for this significant infrastructure project was under consideration when Paul Everingham was Chief Minister.

The Cabinet documents show Acting Transport Minister, Roger Steele, seeking Cabinet endorsement for the ‘proposed Darwin alternative railway corridor between Darwin Port and Palmerston’.

“The Country Liberals built the Northern Territory,” Mr Mills said.

“The rail corridor was planned at the same time as the groundwork was being laid for development of Palmerston.

“The Cabinet submission shows provision being made for construction of the Alice Springs to Darwin rail line – a project Labor dismissed as a ‘faded dream’ – and Darwin Port.

“There is also reference to the Frances Bay Arterial road, which, of course, we now know as Tiger Brennan Drive.

“The Cabinet submission shows the importance of forward planning in the Territory’s development.

“Paul Henderson and his lethargic Labor Government are still reaping the benefits of the Country Liberals energy and vision.”

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