The capacity of the Henderson Government to oversee its own regulations is again under question, with at least two agencies apparently on auto pilot in administering the transportation of hazardous goods through the Territory.

Shadow Environment Minister, Peter Chandler, said claims raised in Saturday's NT News about the Government's 'tick and flick' approach to environmental management show it has learned nothing from the humbling it received over the disastrous Montara oil spill.

The 2010 Borthwick Report was scathing about the Territory Government's regulatory approach in the lead-up to what was one of Australia's worst environmental disasters, criticising in particular its 'minimalist approach to its regulatory responsibility', describing it as 'little more than a tick and flick exercise'.

The Report ridiculed the Territory Government's defence that it followed 'contemporary regulatory practice', contrasting this with Victoria's 'monitoring, inspection, audit and compliance regime'.

"But despite this loud and extremely embarrassing assessment, little more than 14 months later questions are again being raised about the Government's capacity to enforce its own regulations," Mr Chandler said.

"On this occasion, it's NT Worksafe with its eyes off the ball, allowing its equivalent agency in South Australia to approve an exemption that would allow wagons, sealed by tarpaulins, to freight copper concentrate by train through the Territory.

"As reported in the NT News, Worksafe failed to conduct its own risk assessments or environmental management plans before granting the exemption, as well as appearing to conduct its own transport risk assessment.

"The Environment Department also appears to have been coasting by not having in its possession a copy of the relevant environmental management plans.

"So despite the humiliation of the 2010 Borthwick Report, it appears the Territory Government is still prepared to take the easy way out and let others do the work for it when it comes to regulation compliance.

"The neglect starts at the top. The Chief Minister denied there was uranium in the copper concentrate before media shone a light on the deception.

"Labor's inattention to detail points to an administration that is going through the motions and prefers spin to substance. In the meantime, who is standing up for the Territory?"

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