Member for Barkly Gerry McCarthy said a recent trip to Ali Curung gave him the opportunity to inspect the recently completed upgrade of the Stuart Highway with the completion of the national network Gilbert Swamp Food Mitigation Works.

“I announced the upgrading of this essential and strategic piece of highway infrastructure a little under a year ago*. In partnership with the Federal Government, thanks to decisions taken by the previous Labor Government, road users are now benefiting from flood immunity improvements, pavement strengthening and widening of the Stuart Highway at a cost of nearly $8 million.

“Instead of claiming credit for Labor Government road projects like his boss Adam Giles routinely did when he had the portfolio, the current Minister can’t be bothered to announce the completion of the works and its strategic value to the national highways network. Minister Styles is asleep at the wheel only surveying the Territories infrastructure from his air conditioned office in Darwin!”

“I christened this highway upgrade during my extensive road travel with mineral water on the Minister’s behalf as he clearly couldn’t be bothered to champion this and other upgrades to our national highway network.

In contrast to the CLP’s rhetoric and do nothing approaches essential road upgrades started by Labor are now a reality.

“Continually we hear from the CLP mixed messages about open speed limits and blaming everything and everyone about the state of Territory roads. The evidence hasn’t changed and one thing road safety experts from Police through to trauma surgeons and accident and emergency personnel agree upon is, that going faster isn’t safer,” Member for Barkly Gerry McCarthy said.

*Media Release 29 April 2012 attached.

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