Health of Crocker island children and families should not be compromised

The Territory Government should consider moving residents on Crocker Island to emergency accommodation to prevent further exposure to dangerous asbestos debris, Country Liberal Party Leader Denis Burke said today.

Mr Burke said the lives of Croker children and there families are now at serious risk because the clean-up of cyclone damage has been unable to proceed with the urgency needed.

“Reports that dangerous areas covered with exposed asbestos have still to be cordoned off and children are playing among the debris and residents are living alongside exposed asbestos are cause for serious alarm,” Mr Burke said.

“If this was an area of Ludmilla or Parap this wouldn’t be happening. The Chief Minister would have had everyone exposed to these dangers moved well away.

“Clearly a clean up of the magnitude required and the careful removal of asbestos that goes with it, is no quick and easy task with the limited expertise available at short notice.

“But with areas still not cordoned off properly and people being forced to live alongside debris full of exposed asbestos, decisive action needs to be taken to protect the health of residents at risk.

“If it means finding alternative emergency accommodation then so be it.

“We all understand the problems involved in getting Croker back to normal, but being exposed to asbestos dust is not a simple inconvenience, it is life threatening.”