CLP Leader Terry Mills today called on the Territories Minister for Justice and Attorney General to step in and ensure that proper democratic processes are being carried out in the case of Anna Machado, the CLP candidate for the seat of Stuart, who has been evicted from the Willowra Aboriginal Community.

"Why is the Martin Government sitting mute and doing nothing to help Mrs Machado who, until becoming the CLP Candidate running against the Justice Minister and sitting member for the seat of Stuart, Peter Toyne, was able to run the general store for over two years without a problem, Mr Mills asked.

"The Territory Government has the legislative responsibility for the permit system, yet it has failed to show any leadership and provide assistance to Mrs Machado.

"The CLP is standing by our candidate and doing our best to ensure that everything is being done appropriately. I am doing what I can as the leader of the CLP to ensure that there is absolute fairness in this process.

"On the basis of the meeting I had with the Central Land Council yesterday, I believe that Mrs Machado is being used as a scapegoat by some quarters, for a number of underlying problems that existed in the community well before the Machado's came along.

"The local traditional owners have already prevailed upon the CLC and asked them to revoke their decision.

"If Mrs Machado can't get a permit for any Aboriginal land in Central Australia she will not be able to campaign against Peter Toyne in the coming election, and the Government is well aware of this fact.

"I now ask that Peter Toyne as a Member of Parliament show his respect for our democracy and step in to make sure that a fair process is being adhered to and not simply allowing a situation that will benefit him politically."

Ends