The Opposition Leader’s attempt to repeal his own workers compensation legislation is breathtaking hypocrisy, Employment, Education and Training Minister Syd Stirling told Parliament today.

Mr Stirling said the legislation was passed by the previous Government to introduce an employer levy to cover the liability caused by the HIH collapse.

"Now the Opposition is attempting to overturn its own legislation – legislation they said was essential when they were in Government," Mr Stirling said.

"This Government recognises that any additional cost burden on business is unwelcome, which is why we have delivered on our commitment to keep the impact on employers as low as possible.

"The liability is around $40 million, of which the NT Government will shoulder close to half the financial burden by committing an estimated $800,000 per year, on top of the $9 million it has already contributed.

"The previous Government wasn’t going to pay a cent of the liability.

"This silly stunt by the Opposition Leader shows he has no shame and no credibility.

"In addition, his suggestion that the extra $74 million provided to the NT Government by the Federal Government for essential services should be used to cover the liability is ludicrous.

"As has been plainly explained to the Opposition numerous times, that funding is not a windfall or a gift – it is recognition of the increased costs of providing essential services, such as health, education and policing, to remote communities.

"The previous Government left the Territory with a blackhole that has shocked and appalled Territorians, but it appears they have learnt nothing.

"Spend, spend, spend was the CLP’s mantra in Government and it is the same in Opposition.

"They have already spent Territorians additional $74 million for essential services on:

- repealing the Budget Improvement Levy - $24 million;
- the Sunrise development - $200 million;
- cuts to payroll tax;
- And now the HIH levy – around $40 million.

"It’s no wonder that the former CLP Government left the Territory with a blackhole well in excess of $100 million."