CLP Leader Terry Mills has called on the Chief Minister to reconsider her plans to turn 20 of the Territory's major parks into Aboriginal owned land that Territorians will have to pay to rent back.

Mr. Mills said the swimming ban put in place in Kakadu by traditional owners is proof of why the Territory's parks should remain in control of the Territory Government.

Mr Mills said the Chief Minister does not have to relinquish ownership of the Parks to have Aboriginal involvement in their management.

“The Litchfield Park model is an example. Title for the Park is with The Territory Government and a board of management is answerable to the Government,” Mr Mills said.

“Territorians and our tourism industry need to have certainty that the freedoms that are now being enjoyed in our Territory Government run Parks will remain unchanged.

“The best way to guarantee that is if the title to these parks remains with the Northern Territory Government.”

Mr. Mills said the new threat of the swimming bans being extended to not being allowed to take photographs in certain areas only reinforces his argument.

“Swimming bans last week, now the threat of no pictures all makes the tourism industry's fears that the bans could go to walking trails, popular climbs and the like, very real,” Mr. Mills said.

“The reality is that what is now is owned by all Territorians should not be given away by the Chief Minister to a chosen few to control at their whim.

“And when you look at what the Chief Minister is planning there is no legitimate reason to the extent of the deal. Only 10 of the parks and parts of one other were subject to possible land rights claims.

Ends