Federal Labor Party Leader Mark Latham should be man enough to admit he got it wrong about the Darwin to Alice Springs railway and apologise to Territorians for his claims the project was shonky, CLP President Paul Bunker said today.

Mr Bunker said Mr Latham's defence today that he called the project shonky because no-one had every revealed the cost benefits of the railway before Mike Rann became Premier of South Australia, was fantasy.

"Mr Latham's claims are simply not true and he adds insult to Territorians by refusing to apologise before showing his face in the Territory," Mr Bunker said.

"Mr Latham's defence is absurd and an insult to the intelligence of Territorians. How can he possibly expect Territorians to believe his claptrap?"

"A procession of CLP Chief Minister's and CLP Minister's travelled the length and breadth of Australia spruiking the cost benefits of our railway. It was there for all to see.

"Only the likes of Mark Latham did not want to listen.

"Mr Latham and many of his federal colleagues worked over time to damaged the credibility of the Alice Springs to Darwin rail project for their own political purposes.

"While Labor was busy talking the project down as a faded dream the CLP Government continued to forge ahead with getting this project up for the Territory.

"The Northern Territory and its people are owed an apology from Mr Latham and those in Labor who conspired to derail this project simply because they saw political mileage in doing so."

Mr Bunker said Chief Minister Clare Martin would better serve Territorians by getting Mr Latham to apologise for his insulting remarks rather defending the Labor leader. the Press Release goes here.

Ends.