Environment Minister Dr Chris Burns today reaffirmed the Government's commitment to litter abatement after incorrect reports that the Government had withdrawn funding from the Territory Tidy Towns project.

"Claims made in recent days that the Government has withdrawn funding from the Tidy Towns initiative are completely untrue," Dr Burns said.

"Tidy Towns is an initiative of the Keep Australia Beautiful Council (KABC), a non-government organisation that encourages communities to care for and maintain a clean and healthy environment.

"The NT Government provides operational support for Keep Australia Beautiful in the Territory, including a $160,000 grant through the division of Local Government, and $42,000 for leasing costs and $22,000 for the provision of motor vehicles each year.

"This operational funding of over $224,000 per year will continue as usual – there has been no cut.

"I understand that until last financial year, Keep Australia Beautiful had been using funding provided by the Beverage Industry Environment Council (BIEC) for Tidy Towns, but last year they were unable to reach an agreement over future funding for Tidy Towns.

"This is entirely a matter between KABC and BIEC, just as any decision to cancel or postpone Tidy Towns is a matter for KABC alone.

"That said, the Government recognises the value of the Tidy Towns initiative, and will seek to work with KABC to develop a support package for the initiative, over and above the recurrent funding that Government already provides to KABC.

"As Environment Minister, I am negotiating a separate agreement with BIEC, who have said that they plan to continue funding litter abatement initiatives in the Territory.

"I will also be consulting with industry, relevant agencies and community groups to develop sustainable, accountable and effective initiatives as part of the Government's plan for litter abatement," Dr Burns said.