The CLP has secured assurances from Defence Minister Senator Robert Hill that everything possible will be done to make sure the 243 Territory businesses working in our defence industry are not disadvantaged by the awarding of a national defence support contract given to TenixToll Defence Logistics, CLP Leader Terry Mills said today.

Mr Mills flew to Canberra on Thursday for talks with Defence Minister Senator Robert Hill on the issue, and along with CLP Federal Member for Solomon David Tollner, helped broker a weekend Darwin meeting with representatives of the Australian Defence Industry Network (ADIN).

“A meeting has already taken place in Darwin between Senator Hill, ADIN representatives, CLP federal Member David Tollner and CLP Shadow Defence Support Minister Denis Burke, and today we get a limp-wristed belated response by the Martin Government seeking a clarification of arrangements,” Mr Mills said.

“The horse has bolted and the Martin Government is playing catch-up because it was too slow to act when it should have.”

TenixToll Defence Logistics, a joint venture equally owned by Tenix Defence Pty Ltd and Toll Holdings Limited, won the contract for defence support across Australia under the Defence Integrated Distribution System (DIDS) and is gearing to start work in the Territory.

Mr Mills said he had sought assurances that Territory businesses currently working in the defence support area won't be overlooked or negatively affected.

“Minister Hill has given an undertaking to engage with TenixToll at the highest level and is making sure TenixToll meets with ADIN to outline their business intentions,” Mr Mills said.

“Senator Hill gave a further commitment to monitor local involvement in defence support contracts.”

Mr Mills said he was delighted with the success of his meetings and the positive indications for the Territory's local defence industry.
“Our industry had been left in the dark for too long and it is disappointing that the Government has been so slow on this. Senator Hill understands the concern of Territory businesses and made a point of stressing communication flow between TenixToll and ADIN would improve,” Mr Mills said.

Ends