Terry Mills
Leader of the Opposition

Govt gets it wrong and Territory company loses
26 February 2004

Deputy Chief Minister Syd Stirling has failed to explain why he claimed a tender to upgrade water treatment in Katherine had an important accreditation requirement wavered “because no Territory company was CAL accredited” when the opposite was the truth.

CLP Leader Terry Mills said a Darwin CAL accredited company that tendered for the job, worth $621,387, missed out on the job because the Martin Government advertised the contract as not requiring CAL, clearing the way for the Queensland company to win the contract.

"Today the Deputy Chief Minister was unable to explain how he got it so wrong when he claimed there was no Territory company CAL accredited so the Government opened up the tender to those without CAL," Mr Mills said.

"We now know that the Deputy Chief Minister was wrong with his claim and today he was still unable to give the Territory company a proper explanation over his stuff up.

"Last week were told how the Martin Labor Government stood idle while a lucrative solar energy contract was given to an over-priced, non-conforming tender from down south, at the expense of a qualified Territory company, Integrated Technical Services.

"Today we find that the Government has bungled again by ignoring the only CAL accredited Territory company for this Katherine tender.

"What is the point of Territory companies going through the cost in time, money, and effort to become CAL accredited if your Government is going shift the ground rules to suit interstate companies and ignore the promised processes."

Ends