Minister for Sport and Recreation John Ah Kit said today that he remained open to discussing the future of a proposal by the NT Indigenous Sports Council (NTISC), ATSIS and the Yilli Rreung Regional Council to establish an Indigenous Sports Club in Darwin.

"My door remains open—and I have already been in discussion with ATSIS State Manager Michelle Adams with a view to holding a meeting within the next two to three weeks towards advancing the issue with ATSIS and the NTSIC. This includes seeking a delay to a final decision about the money held by the NTSIC so the issue can be resolved.

"However, this government is not in the business of offering land for any club or association unless and until they can come up with a viable business plan. We asked for one as far back as April—and we are still waiting," said Mr Ah Kit.

"Clubs and associations all over the nation are struggling to keep their heads above water because of changing lifestyles and ever widening entertainment alternatives to social clubs.

"We only have to look at the recent collapse of the Arafura Bowling Club as evidence of this.

"The Indigenous Sports Club must be in the business of running a business—and it cannot do that without a viable business plan," said Mr Ah Kit.

"This is why our emphasis is on co-location of clubs and shared use of sporting facilities so greater economies of scale can be achieved for the benefit of all.

"While I remain supportive of the NTSIC and will do what I can to bring their dreams to fruition, any shift back to ATSIS of the $2.5 million sits squarely with those organisations to determine."