The Territory Government will not be rushed into making decisions about the Secondary Education Review, Employment, Education and Training Minister Syd Stirling said today.

“The Opposition Leader is telling us to ‘hurry up’ with implementation of the review at the same time as acknowledging what a massive task this is,” Mr Stirling said.

“This is about the future of young Territorians and we want to ensure that we make decisions that are in the best interests of current and future secondary students.

“When the Chief Minister announced the review in September 2002, she said that implementation would begin in 2004 – we are on track to achieve that.

“The Department is currently assembling a team of professionals to lead the implementation of any recommendations accepted out of the review report.

“There will be further consultation with school communities, teachers, parents and education experts before recommendations are implemented to ensure we are making the best decisions possible for our young people.

“It’s a bit rich for a member of the former CLP Government to criticise the Secondary Education Review when his Government did absolutely nothing about enhancing education in the Territory when they were in power.

“Secondary education has not been reviewed in the Territory for over 10 years which shows what a low priority it was for the former Government.

“Education is one of this Government’s highest priorities and we are going to get this right.

“As a former teacher, Terrence Mills should get behind the Review, rather than undermine it.”