Denis Burke’s pitch to Katherine residents to support his divided party because of Mike Reed’s legacy shows how much the CLP Opposition takes Katherine for granted, Acting Chief Minister Syd Stirling said today.

"Forcing an unwelcome by-election because of their own infighting is the icing on the cake in terms of the arrogant attitude they have taken towards the people of Katherine," Mr Stirling said.

"Now Denis Burke expects Katherine residents to vote for the CLP Opposition based on the supposed great things that Mike Reed has done.

"For two years Mike Reed has done next to nothing for Katherine.

"He asked only four questions about Katherine specific issues in Parliament in the past two years – that’s one every six months!

"He sent only 15 letters on behalf of his constituents to Government Minister’s in over two years - that's less than one a month!

"Some Ministers did not receive a single piece of correspondence from the CLP Member in over two years.

"With no voice in Government and a local Member who has no interest in his own electorate, Katherine residents and community groups have been badly let down.

"If we go further into the Mike Reed legacy we see:

- an unsustainable Budget blackhole which he misled Territorians about;
- a finding by the Public Accounts Committee that he doctored the Budget for political purposes; and
- years of exaggeration about the strength of our police force with ‘police on paper’ but not on our streets.

"Territorians are still paying for this legacy.

"The CLP Opposition is happy to describe Katherine as a ‘safe’ seat but it beggars belief that Denis Burke thinks Mike Reed’s ‘legacy’ will endear the residents of Katherine to his divided party."