The Member for Katherine, Fay Miller, today called on the Northern Territory Government to urgently address drainage problems in Katherine that originate from the Tindall area.

“Drainage problems continue to pose a threat to Katherine residents and businesses, with water running from Tindall through the rural area, including the Katherine Research Station, the Katherine industrial area and finally into the Katherine River.

“What is required immediately is a full engineering and hydrology report on the region to assess what further works are required. This will ensure that the residents who live in the rural area – such as Collins and Uralla Roads - and the businesses in Katherine South are protected from situations such has occurred in the last Wet Season.

“Record rains fell at Tindall during the 2003/04 Wet Season resulting in serious flooding these areas. The aquifer is full and will remain so for several years, meaning that there will be no relief through underground drainage.

“We are grateful that so far the Wet Season this year has been mild but when we had rains over two weeks ago, those residents and businesses that were likely to be affected were on tenterhooks. The residents of Katherine should not be put in this situation every year.

“Remedial works completed in late 2004 have done nothing to solve the problem and only changed superficial elements of the offending drain.

“The government must show some commitment to the people of Katherine to channel more resources into this problem.”

Ends