Opposition Leader Denis Burke should tell Territorians the truth about his stance on illicit drugs, Deputy Chief Minister Syd Stirling told Parliament today.

"Mr Burke has always said the illicit drug problem in the Territory was miniscule," Mr Stirling said.

"In fact, he recently told ABC radio: ‘I don’t believe that hard drugs are a major problem’.

"He described drug use as a ‘lifestyle issue’ and gave the clear impression that he didn’t have a problem with people smoking marijuana.

"He said on radio: ‘there are many people – and I noticed it specifically when I was CEO of 2 CAV Regiment – there are many people that will not drink alcohol but will have the occasional smoke.’

"Yet a week later when interviewed on the ABC’s Stateline program, the Opposition Leader said: ‘I discharged two or three soldiers for the possession of marijuana, I never tolerated marijuana in the army.

"Which is it? Is he in favour of the recreational use of illegal drugs or not?

"Would he go to a high school presentation night and look at the students and parents and say that the CLP saw recreational drug use as harmless?

"It’s time for the CLP to take a stand – for the sake of our kids – and condemn the use of illegal drugs.

"There is a strong link between illicit drug use and property crime and this Government will not ignore the problem like our predecessors did.

"This Government was elected with a clear mandate to implement our Tough on Drugs plan.

"We do not tolerate drug production and distribution and it’s time the CLP took the same stance."

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