CLP Leader Terry Mills has called on the Government to make sure the weekend's disappointment for thousands of Darwin, Palmerston and rural resident's who missed seeing the historic freight train from Adelaide is not repeated with the arrival of the first Ghan service on February 3.

Mr Mills said his office had been flooded with phone calls from angry residents who missed the train because it passed through their vantagepoints earlier than expected.

"The historic freight train from Adelaide to Darwin was a long time coming and thousands missed out on seeing it simply because the Government did not have its thinking cap on," Mr Mills said.

"Government knew all the schedules to be there for the happy media snaps so it would have known the freight train's running schedule.

"The public should have been kept informed by the Government using the media to let people know expected times it would pass through various areas along the track.

"It is now important the Government prevents thousands being disappointed for the arrival of the first Ghan passenger service into Darwin on February 3 by showing a bit of commonsense thinking.

"This is a wonderful moment in Territory history that has captured the hearts and minds of Territorians.

"The occasion should not be ruined by poor planning.

"By keeping in touch with the train's movements along the route people can be constantly updated by radio or television about expected times it will pass through areas along the track."

Ends