Deputy Chief Minister Syd Stirling today called on the Opposition to state its position regarding Government’s plan for the development and enforcement of appropriate systems of isolation or separation fencing in the Northern Territory.

Mr Stirling said the CLP failed to properly address this life threatening issue during its 26 years in power and had continued to show little regard for the serious inadequacies of Territory pool fencing laws.

"We have some of the weakest pool laws in the country and this Government is taking steps to change this, in an effort to save lives," he said.

"I call on the Opposition to support our push for appropriate pool fencing laws.

"This is an extremely important issue for Territorians, particularly those with children, and, as yet, the Opposition has failed to display any useful position on the issue.

"It’s not good enough to remain silent while others fix a problem they let continue for years."

On Tuesday, Chief Minister Clare Martin announced that Territory Councils had eight weeks to develop a plan for the introduction of isolation or separation fencing and other pool safety improvements – like that found in other States and Territories.

"While responsibility for pool fencing rests with Councils, and Government wants a co-operative approach, we won’t hesitate to introduce over-arching legislation if they fail to do the right thing.

"The Territory has the highest rate of swimming pool drownings in Australia and Councils have eight weeks to tell us how they will address that or we will act.

"This Government is taking action and, after 27 years of fence sitting and passing the buck, it’s high time the CLP Opposition did the same."