The Opposition Leader has got it wrong once again, this time in relation to Government contracts.

“Terry Mills has again proved that he never lets the facts get in the way of a good story.

He claimed in Parliament today that CAL processes had been ‘ditched’ in the awarding of a contract for the design and building of the Nitmiluk Water Treatment plant.

“Wrong, wrong, wrong.

“I am advised that the Procurement Review Board – which operates independently of Government – granted a waiver of CAL requirements for this tender so that Territory companies could have a chance to tender for the work.

“At the time, NO Territory company had accreditation for the job.

“In granting the waiver of CAL requirements, the Procurement Review Board stipulated that all tender bids should include a local participation plan.

“The tender was won by a joint venture between a Territory company and an interstate company which offered the lowest tender price and the best value for money.

“I wish the Opposition Leader would get his facts straight instead of mouthing off with just half the story. He should also apologise to the H2O Centre in Coolalinga for failing to acknowledge them as a Territory company.

“The Opposition seems unable to grasp the fact that the vast majority of Government contracts go to Territory businesses.

“Since July 2003, $242.4 million worth of contracts over $50,000 have gone to Territory businesses.

“This compares to $49.7 million worth of contracts over $50,000 that have gone to interstate firms in the same time period.

“NT companies win close to five times the value of contracts of interstate companies.

“Terry Mills should stop trying to mislead Territorians about this issue.”