The weekend's power blackouts in Alice Springs left homes without water for up to six hours, caused damage to electrical goods in some homes and caused equipment in shops to malfunction forcing customers out of stores, CLP Shadow Minister for Central Australia Dr Richard Lim said today.

Dr Lim said he had taken numerous phone calls from angry residents and business people upset over the disruption caused by the blackouts.

"The Martin Government's silence on what it intends to do about these on-going power problems has been deafening," Dr Lim said.

"Alice Springs residents want answers. They want a guarantee that these power failures are going to stop. The Government however doesn't seem to care what Alice Springs residents want.

"There is a need for a full and independent inquiry into the ongoing problems at PowerWater.

"Considerable disruption is being caused to homes, businesses and so on.

"It is unacceptable and it is not good enough for the Martin Government to simply put the hands over its ears and close the eyes hoping it will all go away.

"I am calling on the Government to bring on an independent inquiry to find out what is happening with PowerWater, why maintenance and planning has been so neglected at a time when PowerWater is making such huge profits."

Ends