It is totally unacceptable that school children have been ordered off school buses in Darwin this morning because of overcrowding, says the Territory Opposition.

At least 5 children were left at the Palmerston bus exchange as a consequence of overcrowding on the Palmerston to Marrara Christian School bus run this morning.

“The parents I have spoken to about this matter are absolutely furious about their children being ordered off the school bus,” says Terry Mills, Opposition Leader.

“Had those parents not waited for the bus to depart the children who had been ordered off the bus would have been left to find their own way to school.

“I think the Minister for Transport, Delia Lawrie, should apologise to those parents whose children were ordered off the bus.

“Given this is the second week that school is back, the Minister needs to have a very good explanation as to why these kids were left behind.

“Getting caught out on the first day of school may be excusable, getting caught out in the second week of school isn’t.

“I suspect that the overcrowding of the school bus can, in part, be traced to the Territory Government’s failure to get the Palmerston Middle School up and running for the start of the school year.

“The middle school debacle at Palmerston has almost certainly resulted in more families deciding to send their children to non-government schools.

“Hence the overcrowding on the Palmerston to Marrara Christian School run.

“The Territory Government should have been alert to the possibility of overcrowding on school buses running out of Palmerston and planned accordingly.

“Certainly there’s no excuse for not having enough seats for school kids in the second week of term.

“The Minister for Transport needs to get this problem sorted out today.”

Terry Mills will be at the Palmerston interchange tomorrow morning at 7.50 am to monitor the situation.

Further comment : Terry Mills 0418 833 594