Opposition Environment spokesman Peter Chandler has welcomed the Territory Government’s belated release of a climate change policy – which closely mirrors the policy released by the Country Liberals two weeks ago.

Mr Chandler said the Henderson Government had adopted many of the Country Liberals’ headline recommendations including a 60% reduction in emissions by 2050, significant reductions in Government carbon outputs and off-sets on emissions caused by burn-offs.

“Today’s policy shows that there is essentially a bi-partisan approach on climate change in the Territory, although the devil remains in the detail,” Mr Chandler says.

“Labor’s climate change policy is short on specifics, in particular how it’s going to pay for its promises.

“Labor hasn’t shown the same commitment to renewable energy as the Country Liberals.

“Labor set its renewable energy targets at 20% by 2020 – in line with COAG agreements rather than its own initiatives.

“This is despite having already sought exemptions from the Commonwealth because it didn't believe the target was achievable.

“I suspect Labor felt compelled to set a renewable target after the Opposition pledged 25% renewables by 2025.

“The Opposition also has a policy encouraging reforestation – carbon sinks – which is superior to the Government’s commitment merely to maintain the current rate of land clearing.

“Any land clearing under the Country Liberals will be assessed by an independent Environmental Protection Agency.”
Mr Chandler said Paul Henderson’s assertion last week that a climate change policy required an Emissions Trading Scheme has been shown to be nonsense.

“Mr Henderson has shown once again he’s prepared to say anything to attack the Opposition,” Mr Chandler said.

“It’s a further dent to his already battered credibility and shows again he’s not to be trusted when it comes to a rigorous assessment of Opposition policy.”

Further comment: Peter Chandler 0429 076 493