Sport and Recreation Minister Karl Hampton should clarify his Government’s costings for the proposed Palmerston water park.

Member for Brennan, Peter Chandler, said while the Opposition supports a water park in Palmerston, the Government has a responsibility to ensure the budget doesn’t blow-out along the way.

The project has already endured an $8.5million blow-out – the price tag climbing from $5million to $13.5million in the space of two years.

Now a discrepancy has appeared in the Government's planning for the facility – with the Minister announcing Government would construct a car park as part of the development, contrary to tender documents which say the car park isn’t in the ‘scope of this consultancy’.

“The Minister should explain how much extra a car park will add to the water park’s $13.5million budget,” Mr Chandler said.

“As well, the tender documents say the $13.5million budget excludes GST and design management fees’.

A 10% GST would add another $1.35million to the cost of the project – and design fees will also add to the final bill.

When the Chief Minister announced plans for the water park during the 2008 Territory election campaign, the proposal was costed at $5million.

The Government has already stretched credibility by bumping up the budget from $5million to $13.5million.

The tender documents leave open the prospect of cost blow-outs.

The provision says:

If cost over-runs exceed savings the principal must be briefed, and agreement reached on remedial measures, either changes to the project brief/scope/quality of work and/or an increase in the budget.

“This hardly creates a sense of optimism the project will come in within budget.”

Further comment: Peter Chandler 0429 076 493