The Chief Minister has turned his back on the issues confronting the people of Alice Springs by refusing to speak at a rally outside the Parliament this morning.

Opposition Leader, Terry Mills, said this morning’s snub confirmed the community view that Paul Henderson only addresses crowds where he knows the audience will agree with him.

“His predecessor, Clare Martin, had the guts to address a protest in Alice Springs in 2007. Paul Henderson’s refusal to address the crowd lacked courage,” Mr Mills said.

“The people of Alice Springs deserve answers from the Chief Minister about why his Government took so long to respond to the law and order crisis and why he’s holding workshops to find answers instead of providing a direct response.

“Territorians do not protest lightly and the business community does not protest lightly. The people today deserve an explanation.

“The Government has responded with temporary measures – sparked into action by the publicity the people of Alice Springs have generated.

“It’s a con job by a Government feasting on its own arrogance.

“Labor has looked for spin over substance. They have a public relations plan, not a plan that deals with the crime crisis in Alice Springs.

“As soon as these sittings are over, they will again turn their back on the town.

“Paul Henderson and Labor has been hard on businesses in Alice Springs – but soft on crime.

“On the other hand my colleagues and I stand side by side with the community.

“We have given a voice to your wishes – we have called for direct action to deal with crime and anti social behaviour. The Country Liberals will:

• Increase police numbers by 20 – and make that increase permanent
• Put a minimum of 2 general purpose police dogs on the streets to curb crime and anti social behaviour
• Get children aged 15 years and younger off the streets
• Return the police communications unit to Alice Springs so calls to police are answered locally and CCTVs are monitored locally
• Address chronic alcoholism with additional rehabilitation facilities
• Introduce boot camps for young offenders and prison camps for adult offenders
• Toughen the Youth Justice Act so juveniles who commit a serious
crime face a custodial sentence because it is time that there were
consequences for bad behaviour
• Strengthen our criminal and sentencing laws, and enforce them with
zero tolerance policing.
• Work with Tony Abbott and Indigenous leaders to implement a
second wave of direct action

“Most importantly, we will walk in step with this community.”

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 833 594