The AFL’s decision to relocate the All Stars-Richmond AFL game from Marrara is a poor reflection on the competency of the Labor Government to manage the Territory’s show-case sports arenas.

Shadow Sports Minister, Ross Bohlin, said the thousands of dollars wasted hiring super soppers and helicopters to dry the sodden Marrara stadium were in addition to the $2.5million Labor spent upgrading the ground eight years ago.

“The Government spent $2.5million in 2002-03 upgrading Marrara. It’s inconceivable that a ground built in the tropics became so waterlogged it couldn’t be used for football,” Mr Bohlin said.

“This morning, Sports Minister Karl Hampton said a ‘ball park’ figure for the ground dry out was $10,000. Instead of dealing in estimates, the Minister should release an exact figure as soon as possible.

“While I acknowledge there has been plenty of rain over the past few months, this didn’t stop the Rugby Hottest 7s tournament from going ahead at Rugby Park last weekend.

“Nor does it appear it will impact on the scheduled Super 14s clash between The Brumbies and The Reds.

“Rugby Park wasn’t a mud bath. It held up extremely well after two days of virtually non-stop play.

“Instead of blaming the elements Sports Minister, Karl Hampton, should be reviewing exactly what’s lead to this embarrassing failure, in light of the Government’s substantial investment in Marrara.

“It’s inconceivable a sporting event scheduled for Melbourne’s premier stadium, the MCG, would have to be relocated because the ground had become a quagmire.”

Further comment: Ross Bohlin 0413 339 417