Transport and Infrastructure Minister Dr Chris Burns has expressed his disappointment at the Federal Coalition’s response to a bipartisan call for a fair deal for Territory roads.

“John Howard has been splashing money about like a drunken sailor during this election campaign, but he continues to ignore the federal funding shortfall suffered by Territory roads in unincorporated areas,” Dr Burns said.

“At the Sittings in August, the Northern Territory Parliament passed a unanimous motion calling on the Commonwealth to restore the $20 million.

“Denis Burke and I signed a letter the next day and sent it to the Coalition minister responsible for roads.

“The letter noted those promises made by the Prime Minister and other federal ministers that the inequity in the Territory’s road funding would be addressed.

“It urged the Commonwealth to address the shortfall in unincorporated road funding for the Territory by immediately providing $20 million.

“I’m pleased to report that the Shadow Minister for Roads, Mr Martin Ferguson, has committed a Latham Labor Government to an additional $19 million of new funding for Territory roads in unincorporated areas. This is in addition to the $1 million that the Territory secured earlier this year.

“The Coalition’s response has been to announce $3 million over the next four years for the Outback Way in the Territory.

“It has ignored any other roads in unincorporated areas.

“It has ignored the vitally important beef roads in the Barkly and Victoria River districts.

“It has ignored those roads servicing our remote communities, the tourism industry and mining operations.

“The Coalition has two more days to stop treating Territorians as second-class citizens and match Labor’s road commitments.”