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## Terry Mills

### Leader of the Opposition



#### ***Chief Minister rushes ATSIIC decision - key agreements now at risk***

31 March 2004

The Chief Minister's decision to change her position over support for Labor Leader Mark Latham's call to scrap ATSIIC (ATSIIS) has been rushed and ill-thought out and leaves important questions unanswered for Indigenous Territorians, CLP Leader Terry Mills said today.

Mr Mills said the Chief Minister's decision has put at risk a number of important Indigenous agreements currently under negotiation between ATSIIC (ATSIIS) and the Territory Government.

"It's clear the Chief Minister has now been given what to say from her Labor masters in Canberra, but what Canberra hasn't given Clare Martin is the answer to a number of tricky questions that she was not able to provide answers to today," Mr Mills said.

"Labor mantra aside what now happens to the agreements in place and importantly those currently under negotiation between the Northern Territory Government and ATSIIC, (ATSIIS). Once again in Parliament we had a Chief Minister unable to give us answers. "The Chief Minister has jumped into this too quickly and without the answers to these important questions.

"Currently the Northern Territory Government is involved in negotiations with ATSIIC on a number of important agreements. Two in particular are:

- The Indigenous Justice Agreement looking into Aboriginal representation in Territory prisons
- The Partnerships agreement dealing with service delivery for Territory Aborigines.

"Does that now mean negotiations on these agreements cease as Labor no longer believes in ATSIIC and these discussions are just a waste of time. What are the ATSIIC Commissioners involved in this negotiations to do?"

"This should have been worked through first before rushing to blindly accept Mark Latham's orders."

Ends