ITEMISE SIHIP LINE BY LINE

The Henderson Government must provide a comprehensive break-down of spending under the Commonwealth’s $672million SIHIP scheme.

Shadow Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Adam Giles, said concerns raised by Government Minister Alison Anderson that 70% of SIHIP would be eaten up by administration cannot be swept under the carpet by a hastily convened internal audit and angry words from the Chief Minister.

Last week, the Country Liberals called for the Territory and Commonwealth auditors general to run a ruler under SIHIP to determine just how much money will be spent on administration and how much will actually go into improving Indigenous housing.

“As well as this, Labor should be telling us precisely how many houses will be built, the nature of the housing, the construction cost of each house, where it will be built and how many additional people will be housed under SIHIP,” Mr Giles said.

“What the Government hasn’t made public is that under SIHIP, there are two layers of administration.

“Firstly, there are the Territory Government’s administrative costs and secondly further administration charges with the contractor.

“It should be remembered this program replaced the Commonwealth Housing and Infrastructure Program (CHIP) in 2007, and yet so far hasn’t delivered a single house.

“This is the first time the Territory has been trusted to run the Commonwealth’s Indigenous housing program and from what we have seen Paul Henderson and Housing Minister Rob Knight have failed dismally.
“The Government should also itemise the nature of repairs and maintenance to existing housing that will be carried out under the scheme so taxpayers know they’re getting value for money.”

Mr Giles said it was not enough for Paul Henderson and Rob Knight to criticise SIHIP’s manager, Jim Davidson, for providing inaccurate figures to Ms Anderson during their recent briefing.

“Ms Anderson knows what she was told by Mr Davidson,” Mr Giles said.

“The Henderson Government should itemise SIHIP spending so any uncertainty relating to the program is eliminated.”

**Further comment: Adam Giles 0421 588 118**