The number of Territorians being hurt by the Labor Government’s failure to introduce home indemnity insurance continues to grow.

“A leading Top End builder is no longer registered with the Building Practitioners Board, and the failure by the company’s operators to complete a number of homes on time highlights the urgent need for the introduction of indemnity insurance,” says Shadow Housing Minister Kezia Purick.

“I understand that at least five families contracted to this company are affected, not to mention the Territory businesses who supplied materials for the houses.

“Families and businesses pay a huge price when building companies get into difficulty.

“Over the past year Augusto Homes, Carey Builders and Poretti Property Group have hit troubled waters and now people contracted with this company are going public with their concerns.

“I know of one family who have been forced to rent private accommodation for the past 10 weeks because they have been unable to obtain the certificate of occupancy for their home.

“Another family paid the builder more than $100,000 and so far only the slab has been laid. Other families have also been involved in conciliation with this company.

“In 2006 the Government passed in the Territory Parliament a compulsory home warranty scheme, but it has never been enacted. The delays in its introduction have never been properly explained, but the Government should honour this election commitment as soon as possible.

“As well, it should look to amend the Building Act to ensure consumers only pay builders for genuine progress claims, rather than for work that will be done.

“People prepared to take the risk of building their own homes deserve more protection than they currently receive.

“It’s not enough to expect consumers who might only build one home in their lives to put hundreds-of-thousands of dollars at risk without some form of legislative protection.”

Further comment: Kezia Purick 0407 035 976