The Planning Minister should immediately release for public scrutiny the Business Industry Reference Group report into the state of the Territory’s building industry.

Shadow Housing Minister, Kezia Purick, said Planning Minister Gerry McCarthy’s admission that he still hasn’t released the report despite having it since March raises questions about this Government’s accountability.

“The report might provide answers as to why the Government has been so reluctant to introduce home indemnity insurance,” Ms Purick said.

“It might also answer why the Government has suddenly flipped-back to favouring home warranty insurance after first back-flipping on its promise to introduce such a scheme in the Territory.

Despite home warranty being a Labor promise in 2001 and 2005 – and provision made for such a scheme by the Territory Parliament in 2006 – the Chief Minister has recently been backing away from its implementation.

‘On April 8th, he told Alice Springs radio 8HA that:

Over the years most of the insurance companies have pulled out of that particular market, there are only two left in Australia, now we are talking to those companies about whether they’re interested in setting up in the NT but the reality again, Global Financial Crisis, access to money, the insurance business just really isn’t interested offering this type of insurance …’

‘Suddenly, with the collapse of Brolga Homes and in the middle of a Federal Election campaign, the Chief Minister says the Territory will now have home indemnity insurance by the end of the year.

‘Brolga is the fourth building company in the Territory to go under during the past 12 months. In addition to the families building homes, building suppliers and contractors also suffer when building companies collapse.

‘I hope the Government does introduce a home indemnity insurance scheme by the end of the year and that the Chief Minister’s commitment carries more weight than Labor’s previous assurances.”