Details from a confidential briefing in relation to tens-of-millions of dollars missing from the SIHIP project should be made public.

The confidential briefing was part of a deal between members of the Council of Territory Co-operation and the principals of SIHIP to try and account for the missing millions.

Shadow Treasurer, Willem Westra van Holthe, said SIHIP was intended to be an ‘open book’ scheme and that its expenditure should be transparent.

‘Revelations that up to $70 million has been unaccounted for and that the public will have to wait until 2013 for a complete cost break-down doesn’t strike me as transparent,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

‘Houses built under SIHIP were meant to cost $450,000 and if that figure has blown out, taxpayers have a right to know.

‘We already know the number of dwellings might stay the same, but the number of houses has decreased, as has the overall number of completed additional bedrooms.

‘In addition, hundreds-of-millions of dollars extra have been pumped into the scheme to fulfil its infrastructure requirements.

‘The Country Liberals have had a number of briefings in relation to SIHIP and the bureaucrats in charge of the program have been extremely vague about the extent of the cost blow-out.

‘It’s time for the Government to stop dealing in rubbery figures and come clean about the cost.

‘The so-called confidential briefing is a behind-closed-doors response to serious questions about SIHIP’s budget and a snub to openness and transparency.

‘This is about the expenditure of public money. I can’t think of a plausible reason why the contents of the briefing should not be made public.’

Further comment: Willem Westra van Holthe 0414 778 430