The Australian Audit Office report into the HOIL scheme, which provides loans for private home ownership in remote Indigenous communities, makes grim reading.

Leader of Opposition Business, John Elferink, said the program cost $9.9 million to administer but only constructed houses to the value of $2.7 million.

The 45 homes that were constructed are now being looked after by the Territory taxpayer.

This means that the Territory Government, and the taxpayer, is now stuck with houses they didn’t ask for and that could become surplus to need,” Mr Elferink said.

At least 20 of these houses are in outstations – outside of the Growth Towns that the Territory Government has identified – which means that the Territory has been lumbered with so called assets contrary to its own plans.

Why does the taxpayer have to bail out poor administration practices by the Federal Government? We didn’t ask for the outstation houses and they will become a liability that will need to be maintained at a very high cost.

“It’s just part of the ongoing shemozzle that Aboriginal Housing has become in the Territory.

“It would be refreshing if, just once, Territory and Commonwealth policy dovetailed to benefit all Territorians.”

Further comment: John Elferink 0418 406 400