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MEDIA RELEASE

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SIHIP BLOWS-OUT

Housing Minister Rob Knight should resign or be sacked following the damning findings contained in the Performance Review of the SIHIP scheme.

Deputy Opposition Leader, Kezia Purick, said the Cattermole-Davies report made a mockery of Rob Knight's assertions that SIHIP was on track to meet its construction and budgetary targets.

It also showed the Chief Minister’s arrogance in refusing during the last Parliamentary sittings to answer how much SIHIP money has been spent so far.

"The answer to that is $45.5million – without a single house being built," Ms Purick said.

“No wonder the Chief Minister refused to answer the question – he was embarrassed.

“But it is the Housing Minister who has had carriage of SIHIP and has overseen this debacle. The Chief Minister should ask for Rob Knight's resignation – or sack him.”

The Performance Review identifies systemic failings in the roll-out of SIHIP and among its recommendations is for 'substantially greater involvement' by the Commonwealth – effectively sidelining the Henderson Government in the process.

The report shows the Commonwealth has slashed the number of new houses built under SIHIP by about one-quarter by scrapping its plan to construct 230 replacement dwellings – now opting instead to rebuild 230 houses.

Ms Purick said the report effectively scraps SIHIP’s infrastructure component – meaning money for the essential infrastructure required to service the new homes in communities will have to be found elsewhere.
“Of the $45.5million spent so far, $7.6million has gone into establishing infrastructure in remote communities,” Ms Purick said.

“The Chief Minister should say exactly from where money for the essential infrastructure for communities will be sourced and how much of it will come from Northern Territory coffers.

“Given the cost and time over-runs that have dogged the first 18 months of SIHIP, the Chief Minister should tell Territorians exactly how much they’ll be expected to pay to meet the program’s massive budget blow-outs.”

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