Housing Minister Chris Burns’ commitment to turnover empty public housing within three weeks is looking decidedly shaky.

Member for Brennan, Peter Chandler, said a Top End family facing homelessness because of a blunder by Territory Housing are owed an explanation about why it’s taken so long to repair the house they’ve been promised.

"Jessica Steinhardt, her partner and two children have been waiting for public housing for years," Mr Chandler said.

"Earlier this year they were told they would get a home when they paid a bond – which Jessica handed over on Tuesday.

"Now, because they wrongly believed they would have a Government house by the end of next week, they are being evicted from the caravan in which they have been living.

"Instead the house, in Bonson Terrace, Moulden, is sitting idle because Territory Housing hasn’t even begun repairs, let alone readying it for occupation.

"Neighbours I spoke with this week say the house has been empty for up to two months.

"While it is some comfort to the Steinhardt’s that they will be given temporary accommodation while the repairs take place, it’s surprising Territory Housing says they will have to wait at least another month for the home to be ready.

"Chris Burns ripped off the Country Liberals’ promise to reduce turnover times on public housing properties to three weeks.

"The commitment that the house will be ready in a month falls outside Chris Burns’ stated target.

"This is on top of the at least two months it’s already been vacant. While there’s no doubt the Bonson Terrace house needs a little work, it should have been habitable well inside the three week timeframe.

"By the time the Steinhardt’s move in, this perfectly adequate home will have been empty for at least three months, which is unacceptable and shows the Minister’s promises mean nothing.”

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