Millions of dollars are disappearing because of Territory Housing’s inability to properly manage public housing stocks, says Shadow Housing Minister Kezia Purick.

During Estimates Committee hearings today, Housing Minister Chris Burns admitted that cumulative damage to public housing stock by tenants totalled in excess of $6million.

As well, public housing rent arrears totalled $2.1million – and that only 50% of rent arrears was being repaid by tenants.

Surprisingly, given the large number of complaints about anti-social behaviour in public housing, the number of evictions dropped in financial year 2009-10 compared to 2008-09.

In the financial year to May 1st, there were 42 evictions from Territory public housing dwellings compared to 80 in the previous financial year.

Of the 42 evictions, 24 were as a result of rent arrears, five were for failure to maintain the property and 13 were because of anti-social behaviour.

“Today’s Estimates hearings showed the extent to which the Government has allowed standards to drop in public housing,” Ms Purick said.

“Close to $10million in unscheduled outlays to repair trashed houses and losses from unpaid rent is unacceptable.

“The Territory Government has taken its hands off the public housing levers – and taxpayers are paying for that failure.”

(Document attached)

Further comment: Kezia Purick 0407 035 976