Minister for Public and Affordable Housing Chris Burns has called for the CLP to come clean with their plans for indigenous housing in the Territory amid press reports yesterday that they would put an immediate stop to the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP).

“Adam Giles said he would stop SIHIP if he got his way,” Dr Burns said.

“It is obvious from Adam Giles comments, that if Tony Abbott were elected in Canberra he would move to chop SIHIP at the earliest opportunity.

“It is clear that the old CLP has not changed – for almost 30 years of the CLP they ignored housing for indigenous Territorians and that’s why we face huge backlogs in this area.

“The program is now delivering housing on the ground across 30 communities. To stop it now would not only be disastrous for those communities but also for the countless Territorians and Territory businesses who are part of the program.

“The Australian and Territory Governments are investing $1.7 billion to improve housing in the bush.

“This is the greatest single indigenous housing program in the history of the Territory and Adam Giles continues to denigrate it.

“These changes will help close the gap on indigenous disadvantage by targeting overcrowding and delivering safe and healthy homes.

“The CLP would widen the gap on indigenous disadvantage if they got their way by stopping the massive construction program to improve housing in the bush.”

Under SIHIP over 250 workers or 40 per cent of the workforce employed are indigenous people, gaining valuable skills, training and employment.

So far 21 new houses have been completed with over 80 new homes currently underway. Almost 300 refurbishments and rebuilds have been finished and 100 also underway.

With a federal election around the corner, Territorians need to know what plans, if any, the CLP and their mates in Canberra have for remote Indigenous housing.

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