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## Privatisation contract is not the answer says union

The Barnett Government should rip up the maintenance model contract it has signed with private companies to handle maintenance contracts at the Department of Housing.

Community and Public Sector Union/Civil Service Association Branch Secretary Toni Walkington said the internal report into the Head Contractor Maintenance Model tabled by Housing Minister Troy Buswell in State Parliament last Wednesday highlighted concerns expressed by the union for some time.

The audit uncovered more than 100 examples where the date for completion for a maintenance job was prior to the job being issued.

The audit was from the period of July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.

CPSU/CSA Branch Secretary Toni Walkington said the audit highlighted their concerns about the head contractor entering incorrect completion times to meet their KPI targets.

“While the audit only covered that time frame we are continually hearing about similar events since that time, so we have to ask how has the head contractor model improved,” Ms Walkington said.

“The auditors also had concerns that the risk of human error and fault still exists.

“Our members who work in Housing are still giving us examples of where jobs have been paid for and have not been done.”

Ms Walkington said there were concerns where the contractors claim to have attended a property to carry out a job but there was no evidence they had been there.

“Some tenants said they hadn’t left the property and there was no calling card so they too question what is going on.”

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One member in a metropolitan Housing office said they used to get vacant properties back onto the market in a week to 10 days but now they were lucky if it was six weeks.

“This member, like others, said the head contractor model was not working and doesn’t understand how the government is making any savings out of the new system.

“He said it was a lot simpler process before.”

**FOR COMMENT:**

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