Moratorium Lifted on Public Housing Sales

The moratorium on the sale of public housing in the Territory has been lifted following significant work undertaken to build more dwellings and the development of an Asset Management Strategy for the next ten years.

Minister for Public and Affordable Housing Chris Burns said some tenants will be able to purchase certain dwellings that meet revised sales criteria to ensure strategically important public housing is maintained.

“There has been a lot of work to deliver more public and social housing to boost stock so we can house more people in need,” Dr Burns said.

“Strategic sales will be an important part of the Territory Housing asset management strategy as the revenue from sales will be dedicated to replacing stock, however, we need to make sure we are careful about what stock we sell.

“We will not see a return to the CLP policy of selling off thousands of dwellings, pocketing the returns with no significant upgrading or replacing of housing stock.

“Prior to 2001, the CLP were selling Public Housing dwellings at a record rate – some 781 dwellings in the 98-99 year alone, at a time when the waitlist stood at over 3350 people.

“This has had an enormous on-going impact on public housing and our Asset Management Strategy aims to redress the situation.

“The decision to lift the moratorium will support Territory Housing to improve the condition of public housing as well as reducing high concentrations of stock.

“It also gives tenants the opportunity to become home owners and get out of the public housing system,” Dr Burns said.

The new Public Housing Sales Policy will be supported by a public housing asset strategy to identify dwellings that are suitable for sale.

Territory Housing properties will be assessed depending on:
- location relative to services, shops, facilities and transport,
- age and condition of dwelling
- level of concentration of public housing,
- demand for that particular type of dwelling
- suitability for priority/complex needs housing
- future redevelopment potential, and/or
- Opportunity to contribute to home ownership and affordable rental targets (i.e. unit complex redevelopments).
Tenants will also have to meet eligibility criteria to qualify to purchase a public housing property.

For more information on the eligibility criteria for the Territory Housing Sales Policy, visit www.housing.nt.gov.au/public_housing or call 8999 8469.

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