PETER CHANDLER
MINISTER FOR HOUSING

REVIEW FINDS HOUSING EFFICIENCIES

December 4th, 2012

The Country Liberals Government has reviewed government employee housing and public housing to maximise efficient use of assets.

In the 2012-13 year an estimated $2.3 million will be returned to the Government from the sale of employee housing.

“We have found that in some areas there is a sufficient supply of good private rental houses that staff can access,” the Minister for Housing, Peter Chandler, said.

“It makes good business sense for the Government to allow the private rental market to meet demand,” he said.

“Staff will be required to pay market-like rent for their public housing dwelling, rather than continue to be subsidised when earning more than the allowable limit to qualify for public housing,” Mr Chandler said.

It is estimated that in both 2013-14 and 2014-15 sales of government employee housing will bring in $3.45 million.

Public housing rents will be increased in 2013-14 for tenants with income over the eligibility limit.

“We are facing increasing maintenance costs and other expenditure in our public housing dwellings,” the Minister for Housing Peter Chandler said.

“While rents have lagged behind in the Territory, our expenses have increased.

“We will keep the same spending level on our public housing and we will look at measures to improve our stock and sell costly, ageing homes,” he said.

The Government has also examined existing housing assistance loans and will be realigning some loan interest rates, adding $376,000 to revenue in 2012-13 and $752,000 ongoing from 2013-14.

Minor increases in urban, remote and town camp rent will be implemented from 2012-13 – they will then be in alignment with other jurisdictions around Australia, Mr Chandler said.

This will bring in $150,000 in 2012-13 and $300,000 ongoing from 2013-14.

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General operational efficiencies in the department will save $670,000 ongoing from 2012–13.

“A more efficient Department of Housing with improved rent structures and appraisals to our public housing stock will ensure Territorians in need will have better access to Housing’s services,” Mr Chandler said.

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