7 May 2013

The Territory Government is spending $52.94 million to upgrade and improve urban public housing in 2013.

“The Government is embarking on a socially responsible approach to better manage our public housing stock,” Minister for Housing, Peter Chandler, said.

“Delia’s former government neglected public houses, let many complexes run down, and failed to invest in new homes. Labor let land release for housing lag behind, rents became more expensive so pressure increased for public housing spaces.

“As a responsible government we will provide homes for Territorians on low incomes, but we are also aware we have inherited a huge debt from Labor.

“However, as the Territory Government grows the economy we will be better able to invest in public housing.

“At present we are on a path to redeveloping some of the complexes that are beyond economic repair. We are selling houses that are not cost effective to repair and we will invest the money in replenishing our public housing portfolio.”

At present there are contracts awarded to build 28 public housing dwellings in Darwin and Palmerston, Mr Chandler said.

“As the Territory economy grows we want to maintain the Territorian lifestyle that so many love, this means we want to keep our suburbs and streets safe.

“Providing good homes for low income Territorians in a peaceful environment contributes towards an enjoyable lifestyle and community safety.

“We have a low tolerance to anti-social behaviour around public housing. Public Housing Safety Officers will continue to act when necessary to ensure tenants and neighbours fell safe.”

Media Contact:
Judith Hughey 8928 6619 or 0409 863 383

www.nt.gov.au
GPO Box 3146, Darwin NT 0801