Leader of the Opposition, Delia Lawrie, said the January Building Approvals data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) today highlights the failure of the CLP Government to reduce the cost of living in the Territory.

“The ABS Building Approvals data shows that the Territory is going backwards in comparison to the rest of the nation,” Ms Lawrie said.

“The number of dwellings approved rose 1.3 per cent nationally in January 2014. But the Territory recorded a decrease of 28.5 per cent – the fifth consecutive month of dwelling approval decreases for the Territory.

Ms Lawrie said the CLP Government is bungling the economic future of the Territory and at the same time failing to reduce the cost of living – breaking their primary election promise.

“The CLP Government is wearing their blinkers when it comes to the Territory’s domestic economy,” Ms Lawrie said.

“They are so fixated in quick cash grabs from selling off the Territory’s assets that they are neglecting to promote growth in the crucial residential construction sector.

Labor candidate for Blain, Geoff Bahnert, said the drop in dwelling approvals reflects the very real concerns of Blain constituents when they complain about the lack of affordable housing.

“Why did the CLP axe home finance schemes like My New Home and Homestart Extra which helped Territorians into home ownership and gave a stimulus to housing construction?” Mr Bahnert asked.

“Housing affordability is a huge cost of living issue with residents struggling to pay their rent as mounting increases in power and water charges are hurting.

Ms Lawrie said the CLP had failed to release new land and were instead relying on the former Labor Government land release in Palmerston East.

“Where are their much-lauded 2000 new rentals after 18 months in Government?” Ms Lawrie asked.

“Where is the next big tranche of land release beyond Johnston, Zucolli, Muirhead and Mitchell that Labor planned and funded?”
Delia Lawrie
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

“The CLP Government has shown they’d rather spend $100,000 on private jets than easing the cost of living burden.”

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