Kezia Purick
Deputy Opposition Leader
Media Release

9th March 2009

PLANNING TO BREAK THE LAW

The release of the audit of Tennant Creek building certifications confirms that the Department of Planning and Lands has allowed scandalous, systemic breaches of planning laws for years.

“We now know that 62 Government and private buildings in Tennant Creek have not been properly certified since 2004,” says Kezia Purick, Deputy Opposition Leader.

“It’s particularly scandalous that 19 Government buildings in Tennant Creek are in breach of Government’s own planning laws.

“When Government is in systematic breach of its own laws the buck stops with the Minister.

“Nor is the Minister planning to improve the situation anytime soon.

“The Minister appears to have announced that for the next two years nobody will need building certification in any of the Territory’s regional towns.

“This moratorium raises a host of issues that the Minister will need to answer.

“Can the Minister guarantee that nobody will be placed at risk of injury or death has a result of this moratorium?

“Will Territory taxpayers be liable if a building without certification collapses and injures people?

“Will the audit be extended to the rest of the Territory?

“What are the insurance implications for people buying or selling uncertified properties?

“Does the Minister intend to continue to hound people living in non-certified sheds in the rural area?
“Just how will retrospective certification operate and exactly what does the phrase ‘without owners incurring and unnecessary costs’ mean?

“It is also ironic that just days after the Chief Minister announced a ‘Buy Territory’ campaign, the Minister has employed two Queenslanders to advise her on how to clean up this scandal.”

Further comment: Kezia Purick 0407 035 976