MINISTER FIDDLES WHILE RENTS RISE

Ordinary Territorians continue to be squeezed out of the private housing market as a result of the Henderson Government’s failed land release policies.

Shadow Housing Minister Kezia Purick said figures released today by Australian Property Monitors show the median weekly cost of renting a house in Darwin in September pass the $500 mark for the first time – an increase of $20 and 4.2% over the previous quarter.

The median cost of renting a unit in Darwin is $440 a week – an increase of $40 and 10% over the previous quarter.

“It’s figures like these that graphically illustrate the Government’s appalling failure to manage the Northern Territory's housing supply,” Ms Purick said.

“It’s absurd that rentals in a city of approximately 120,000 people that’s surrounded by vast tracts of vacant land should be more expensive than those in city’s in excess of 4 million people like Sydney or Melbourne.

“The Government has botched its land release policies in the Northern Territory.

“Lands and Planning Minister Delia Lawrie issued eight media releases in the years between announcing plans for the Bellamack development and the first lots being sold.

“Not only are Territorians sleeping in cars, tents or caravans because they can’t find a place to live, those lucky enough to have a place to rent are paying exorbitant rentals for the privilege of having a roof over their heads.”

Further comment: Kezia Purick 0407 035 976