Kezia Purick
Deputy Opposition Leader

Media Release

December 17th, 2009

COMMUNITY, DEVELOPERS NEED CERTAINTY

After almost two years of uncertainty, the Henderson Government has at last finalised its plan for building heights in Darwin’s CBD.

Shadow Minister for Planning and Lands, Kezia Purick, said the delay has been a major source of frustration for Territory developers and had the potential to hold back development in central Darwin.

“The Country Liberals acknowledge that the Government has heard our call to lower the building height on The Esplanade and CBD perimeter,” Ms Purick said.

“While it falls well short of the pyramid plan introduced by the Country Liberals some years ago, at least it reflects to a certain extent the special significance of The Esplanade to the city centre.

“It’s troubling that despite the unmitigated failure of the special merit provisions within the Planning Scheme, the Government has chosen to exempt some developers from the 36metre height restriction, up to 55metres under certain circumstances.

“So while we have some doubts about the merits of Labor’s amendments, after the unprecedented delays as Government scrabbled around trying to re-draft the Planning Scheme, the Country Liberals will support the amendments in the interests of restoring certainty to planning for business and the community.

“Trying to unscramble the planning egg would be a further disaster for landowners, developers and the general public.”

Further comment: Kezia Purick 0407 035 976