New Housing Development for Darwin

A new land release agreement announced today between the Australian and Territory governments will see the biggest housing development in Darwin for more than 20 years.

The Member for Solomon, Damian Hale, and Territory Minister for Planning and Lands, Delia Lawrie, today announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Defence Housing Australia (DHA) and the Northern Territory Government for land release in the new suburb of Muirhead.

Under the agreement, DHA will develop the Muirhead site which includes about 1000 housing lots with 30 per cent of retained for Defence housing while a further 15 per cent will be made available to the Territory Government for social and affordable housing.

The remaining lots will be offered for sale to the general public and will range in size from 500 square metres to 700 metres.

“Today's agreement is great outcome for the Australian and Territory governments delivering housing to accommodate Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel and their families moving to the Darwin region but also help to reduce pressure on the Darwin housing market,” Mr Hale said.

“Defence personnel and their families are an important component of Darwin’s community and today’s announcement will ensure they have access to first class housing.”
Development plans for Muirhead are expected to be referred to the Australian Government’s Public Works Committee early next year with construction likely to begin in the 2011-12 financial year.

Ms Lawrie said today’s announcement is part of the Henderson Government’s Housing the Territory plan that includes the release of about 6,000 blocks over the next five years.

“This agreement is a win-win for meeting the housing objectives for both the Australian and Territory governments and providing more housing options for Territorians,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Muirhead is in addition to land developments at Bellamack and Palmerston East which includes the new suburbs of Johnston, Zuccoli and Mitchell.

“To help more first home owners into their own home, 150 lots at Muirhead will be set aside for social and affordable housing while our Buildstart Grant and Homestart NT loan scheme is also helping more Territorians into their own home.”

DHA plans to seek expressions of interest and enter into a joint venture partnership for the project, as it did in developing Lyons.

DHA supplies housing and related services to ADF members and their families in line with Defence operational requirements. DHA currently manages over 17,300 properties across Australia worth about $7.8 billion.

Media contact: (Lawrie) Campbel Giles: 0407 972 900
(Hale) Brett Walker: 0401 119 789

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