The Country Liberals are demanding the Henderson Government improve its woeful management of public housing in Alice Springs.

“There are scores of vacant and derelict public dwellings in Alice Springs which could and should be used to ease the housing crisis that has gripped our town,” says Adam Giles, Country Liberals Member for Braitling.

“To help us pressure the Henderson Government into using these vacant houses we are asking for the help of the people of Alice Springs.”

“If you have a vacant public house in your street, we’d like you to contact our offices with the details,” says Matt Conlan, Country Liberals Member for Greatorex.

“That will allow us to find out the total number of vacant public homes in Alice and increase the pressure on the Henderson Government to get families into these houses.

“We know perfectly good houses are vacant for months, even years, because the turnover time is outrageously slow.”

“Last year the Country Liberals set a 3 week turn around time between tenants for homes that don’t need structural repairs,” says Jodeen Carney, Country Liberals Member for Araluen.

“Reluctantly the Henderson Government followed our lead and committed to a 21 day turn around.

“By letting us know when a house falls empty, we will be able to make sure the turnaround timetable commitment is being met.”

“Getting people into houses quickly will reduce the level of vandalism and anti-social behaviour that happens in and around vacant houses,” says Adam Giles.

“At the same time there needs to be a much higher standard of behaviour required from tenants in public housing.

“There are too many people with no respect for the houses they have been provided with, or the rights of their neighbours.”

“Territory Housing should be evicting those public housing tenants who abuse the privilege of living in public dwellings,” says Matt Conlan.

“It’s a privilege to live in public housing, not a right, and people misbehaving should be shown the door.

“If you have problems with a neighbour who is misbehaving we’d like you to contact our offices and we’ll investigate what is being done on your behalf.”

“We’d also like to see Territory Housing adopting a much more active watch over the properties it’s responsible for and the tenants it has,” says Jodeen Carney.

“Regular inspections of public housing are needed, as is a requirement that the houses are kept neat and tidy inside and out.

“Mowing the lawn and getting rid of unsightly rubbish isn’t much to ask.”

Further comment:
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