CAN’T SAY – WON’T SAY

The day after exposing public housing in Darwin sitting idle for months whilst awaiting new tenants, the Territory Opposition has discovered that Territory Housing has deleted estimated waiting times for public housing in Darwin, Casuarina and Palmerston from its website.

The Department of Housing website no longer contains waiting times for public houses in those areas.


“Territory Housing’s decision to conceal waiting times for public housing in Darwin, Casuarina and Palmerston highlights how embarrassed the Henderson Government is regarding its woeful management of public housing,” says John Elferink, Manager of Opposition Business.

“As usual with the Henderson Government when there’s bad news its first instinct is to try to hide the facts from the public.

“The proffered excuse that public housing waiting times for Darwin, Casuarina and Palmerston are currently indeterminate due to the number of approved priority applicants just isn’t good enough.

“There have always been priority applicants for public housing and always will be.

“Further there would be priority applicants in Alice Springs, Katherine, Nhulunbuy and Tennant Creek, yet Territory Housing can provide waiting times for those locations.

“The fact is an increase in the number of priority applicants will have increased the waiting times in the politically sensitive areas of Darwin, Casuarina and Palmerston.

“Increased waiting time is the inevitable result of the Labor Government’s decision to sell-off public housing stock at a time of increasing demand.”

“The Minister for Housing Chris Burns must direct Territory Housing to release estimated waiting times.”

Further comment: John Elferink 0418 406 400