Car Parking Plans On Public Exhibition

A proposed amendment to the NT Planning Scheme to reduce the number of mandated parking spaces for new residential units in Darwin CBD is now on public exhibition.

Lands and Planning Minister Gerry McCarthy invited Territorians to comment on the Government's proposal that will help lower the purchase price of new CBD units.

"Making homes more affordable for Territorians is a key priority of this Government’s housing the Territory initiative," Mr McCarthy said.

"That’s why I am inviting Territorians to provide comment on the proposed amendment to the NT Planning Scheme that aims to help Territorians rent or buy a unit in Darwin CBD.

"Providing car parks in new developments is expensive and many car parks in unit blocks are often empty.

“Each parking space adds about $25,000 to $30,000 to the cost of a new unit and amending the NT Planning Scheme will make buying a unit in the CBD more affordable and potentially boost the construction industry through the building of more units in a tight credit market.

“The change would also improve the use of valuable land and is in line with this Government’s commitment to encouraging the use of public transport, walking and cycling, while ensuring those who need parking have access to it.”

The current Planning Scheme mandates two parking spaces per dwelling but a report released earlier this year for public comment recommends a proposed change to:

- 1 parking space per bedsit and one bedroom unit;
- 1.5 spaces per 2 bedroom dwelling;
- 1.7 spaces per 3 bedroom dwelling;
- 2 spaces per 4 bedroom dwelling;
- plus 0.24 visitor spaces per dwelling.

“Depending on the mix of units, the total number of parking spaces will be rounded up to the nearest whole number," Mr McCarthy said.

“For one and two bedroom apartments, the proposed change means less cost to the developer being passed onto homebuyers at the point of sale.

“Comments made during the exhibition period will be considered before a decision to amend the NT Planning Scheme is adopted by Government.”
Go to [www.nt.gov.au/planning](http://www.nt.gov.au/planning) to view the proposed amendment to the NT Planning Scheme. Public comment will be received until close of business on 17 September 2010.

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