MEDIA RELEASE
SLOW ON THE UPTAKE

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Comments by HIA spokesman Robert Harding about difficulties getting projects off the ground and a gloomy prediction about the future of housing construction activity is sobering news, says Shadow Construction Minister Adam Giles.

“Mr Harding advised that 1800 dwellings a year are needed to meet demand, which is definitely a problem when less than 50 dwellings a month are actually being built”, Mr Giles said.

“Going by these figures there should be 150 new dwelling completions every three months yet in the June quarter there was only 139 or 46 per month, more than 100 per month behind HIA forecast requirements.

“It is no wonder families are experiencing housing stress when supply does not meet demand and it’s not surprising so many are then leaving the Territory.

“There are a lot of positives for the future of Territory when Inpex makes its final investment decision, but if the gap in development activity isn’t filled in the short term, we are in the firing line for serious financial trouble.

“It is the responsibility of Government to deliver the business conditions necessary to significantly boost investment in the construction industry and deliver homes for Territorians.

“Perhaps Paul Henderson and his Government can be a little quicker off the mark improving the state of the construction industry than they have been to date.”

Further comment: Adam Giles 0421 588 118