COUNTRY LIBERALS

MEDIA RELEASE

NO RELIEF FOR RENTERS

Willem Westra van Holthe MLA

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Darwin remains the most expensive capital city in which to rent a house or unit.

Figures released today by Rpdata show the median cost of renting a house in Darwin during the March quarter was $520 a week - $20 a week more than in Canberra and $80 a week more than Sydney.

The average weekly rental on a unit was $430, the same as the median weekly rental in Sydney.

Shadow Treasurer, Willem Westra van Holthe, said while high rental yields are good for investors they are potentially devastating for workers and families who are already struggling under the burden of high costs of living.

“The high rents have contributed to the large number of people leaving the Territory for interstate,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“On average over the past year, almost 100 more people a month have left the Territory for interstate than have migrated here.

“The high rents are a direct result of the Government’s failure to release enough land to meet housing demand.

“The exodus from the Territory is of particular concern to businesses who are already crying out for skilled workers.”

Further comment: Willem Westra van Holthe 0414 778 430