MEDIAL RELEASE

PUTTING AN END TO PLANNING FAILURE

January 30th, 2012

The Henderson Government’s blanket decision to open up the quarter acre block for dual occupancy is a response to a decade of failed land release and housing policies.

Opposition Leader, Terry Mills, said today’s announcement will change the nature of Territory neighbourhoods and had the potential to impact on lifestyle if not properly managed.

“The Government has made a knee-jerk reaction to the housing and land crisis it has created,” Mr Mills said.

“The Territory has the highest rents of any capital city rents in the country and the median house price is second only to Sydney. This has resulted in 3400 more people leaving the Territory than have migrated here from interstate.

“I have no confidence that the Henderson Government is capable of implementing this significant change without seriously damaging the Territory’s suburban and social fabric.

“There is a need for more residential land to make up for the Government’s failure to keep pace with population growth and, if elected in August, the Country Liberals will establish a Planning Commission to oversee the implementation of the dual occupancy measures.

“The Commission would comprise a body of experts with departmental support able to deliver clear, transparent and sustainable decisions on land use, planning and development related issues.

“It would ensure decisions in relation to dual occupancy and other planning matters would be clear, transparent and unaffected by short term political influence.

“Without this oversight, the Government’s plans are fraught with danger.”

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 833 594

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