M E D I A  R E L E A S E

NEW FIGURES HIGHLIGHT HOUSING FAILURES

March 15th, 2012

With the Territory’s population expected to increase by 70,000 people over the next 15 years, the Henderson Government had better get serious about providing increased housing options.

Opposition Leader, Terry Mills, says the latest dwelling commencements show the pace of residential development in the Territory remains way behind requirement.

“Given Labor’s failure to deliver enough homes for a population increase of about 20,000 people over the past 10 years, it’s difficult to see it coping with an additional 70,000,” Mr Mills said.

“Anyone can talk about their plans for the future, but the Labor Government’s housing record over the past decade has been abysmal.

“Darwin residents pay the highest capital city rents in the country and our median house price is second highest, below Sydney.

“According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics dwelling unit commencements, there were 236 starts in the 2011 December quarter, down 10 per cent on the previous year.

“There were 1098 commencements during 2011, down from 1297 in 2010.

“This is hundreds of dwellings below Government’s stated target for residential commencements and, based on the Chief Minister’s own population projections, about 600 dwellings short of what’s required to provide the Territory with sustainable housing options.

“Labor’s made a hash of housing – and they’re not to be trusted.”

(See Attached Link)

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 833 594