PLANNING FOR GROWTH

Monday July 09th, 2012

Opposition Leader, Terry Mills, has pledged to establish a Planning Commission in the Northern Territory within 100 days of the election of a Country Liberals Government.

Addressing a meeting of the Top End Regional Organisation of Councils (TOPROC) this morning, Mr Mills pledged a Country Liberals Government would provide a renewed focus on proper planning in the Territory.

“The Country Liberals will plan properly for the Territory’s future, not just for our political survival,” Mr Mills said.

“We will make sure young Territorians can stay here through growth and not be squeezed out, with urban renewal and affordable rents.

“Over the past two years 4000 more people have left the Territory than moved here from interstate – in part because of rising rents and higher costs of living.

“Mr Mills said the Northern Territory Planning Commission will become the peak body responsible for the development of planning objectives across the Territory.

“The Commission will be independent of Government and have responsibility for identifying long term planning issues and developing strategic plans to meet the Territory’s residential, commercial and industrial requirements.

“It will shift the key planning decision-making role away from Government and be more open and transparent.”
The Commission will be responsible for:

- Reviewing and setting appropriate land use objectives
- Guiding urban, industrial and agricultural developments across the Territory.
- Determining road, rail, air and ocean transport requirements
- Identifying the Territory’s infrastructure needs in the areas of education, health and essential services
- Identifying gaps in existing planning with an eye on long term development.

“The Labor Government’s failure to plan has forced people out of the Northern Territory, stifled economic growth and hurt workers and families,” Mr Mills said.

“The Country Liberals offer a new direction in planning that will benefit all Territorians.”

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 833 594