MINISTER FOR HOUSING  
MINISTER FOR LANDS, PLANNING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

FIRST OF 21 HOUSING PROJECTS GETS GO AHEAD

22 August 2013

Minister for Housing, Peter Chandler, announced today that the first of 21 developments to build hundreds of homes across the Territory has been formally agreed.

“Negotiations are in the final stages for developments that will deliver over 800 new homes in Darwin, Palmerston, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs through the Territory Government’s head-leasing initiative.

“This is the biggest housing initiative of its type in the Territory for years. These new homes are targeted at the Territory’s essential and service workers. Up to 680 homes will be rented under the Real Housing for Growth initiative at a 30% subsidy off market rents and developers will be guaranteed 10-year leases on the properties with market returns.

“As the building gets under way the Country Liberals will be well on the way to our commitment to build 2000 affordable homes in four years.

“We will stop the exodus of workers from the Territory who were being squeezed out by high rents and high house prices caused by the former Labor government’s failed policies. The Territory needs our workers as the Country Liberals captures the potential and the opportunities that will move us forward to greater economic prosperity. We want workers and their families to be able to stay and enjoy the unique lifestyle.”

Mr Chandler said Gwelo Developments was the first company to come to an agreement on the terms and conditions under the Real Housing for Growth initiative. Gwelo would build 84 homes at Coolalinga in a residential development called Fairweather Apartments. Sixty units would to be leased by the Department of Housing for essential and service workers.

Gwelo Developments director Even Lynne said he was excited about the opportunity to play a part in the success of the Government's initiative to keep skilled workers in the Territory.

“This sort of initiative is vital at this time to the Territory's development, as the supply and retention of skilled services and tradespeople is essential for the ultimate success of our economic endeavours.”

Mr Chandler congratulated Gwelo, which has a long history of development in the Territory, for putting forward an exciting proposal under the Real Housing for Growth initiative.

“Negotiations have progressed significantly with 13 other proponents for building homes on privately owned sites and on government land. By easing cost pressure the Territory will support the attraction and retention of key workers.”

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