MINISTER FOR HOUSING
MINISTER FOR LANDS, PLANNING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

FORGING AHEAD ON HOUSING AND LAND RELEASE

22 August 2013

The Country Liberals Government has a simple and smart recipe for housing availability and is getting on with it, the Minister for Housing Peter Chandler said today.

“As promised we are releasing land for development to get building under way and increase the supply of homes. As more houses and rentals go on to the market the heat will go out of rising prices and improve the cost of living for Territorians.

“Under the former Labor government house building came close to stalling. In the last four years of Labor there were about 1250 houses being built each year when Treasury and industry was saying the Territory needed 1700 a year just to keep up with the demand.

“Labor made promises galore but failed to deliver – look at the big deal they made out of Weddell and that’s as far as they got, there were no concrete plans. That was reckless and irresponsible, they were not trustworthy, just as federal Labor is being with all their election campaign announcements.

“However, Territorians can rely on the Country Liberals because we are getting on with the job. We have already identified more than 70 sites throughout the Territory that have room for over 2700 homes.

“This government land will come to the market quickly; it has already been developed with power, water and sewer lines to the sites.

“Are developers, investors and builders excited? You bet. The phones are ringing. They are desperate for opportunity having been starved of land by the former Labor government.

“The Country Liberals Government is also fast tracking the release of land to build 2000 homes in four years under our Real Housing for Growth initiative. We are well on the way to developing the first thousand.

“These will be available at a 30% subsidy to Territory workers – essential workers who might be a nurse, a mechanic, a hairdresser, the people who provide the services that keeps the Territory ticking over every day. Developers are happy with this initiative – their investment is secure with guaranteed 10-year leases from the government.

“The Country Liberals are proud of our first year in government, our policies are stimulating new construction in the residential sector, we will see houses and rentals become more affordable. This was our promise and we are making sure it happens.”

Media Contact:
Judith Hughey 8928 6619 or 0409 863 383