PETER CHANDLER MLA | Member for BRENnan
MINISTER FOR LANDS, PLANNING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

A BIG YEAR FOR LAND RELEASE

20 February 2014

The Country Liberals Government is committed to reducing the cost of living for Territorians by continuing to stimulate housing supply through land release and promoting development.

Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment, Peter Chandler said we’re looking to build on the foundations we laid last year – streamlining of departmental processes, fast-tracking existing greenfield projects and identifying urban infill sites for development.

“According to Real Estate Institute of Northern Territory figures the median house price in Darwin/Palmerston increased on average 10.65% every year from 2002 to 2012,” Mr Chandler said.

“Growth in property value has now stabilised to a more sustainable 6% in 2013.

“The government’s efforts to slash red tape has resulted in the doubling of CBD development over the last 12 months and from that we expect to see more than 800 units come on to the market this year.”

The greenfield land release plan for 2014 is expected to yield about 2000 dwellings across the Territory, not just here in Darwin.

“I’m looking forward to releasing the final stages of Zuccoli in Palmerston East to meet the strong demand for residential land. This is part of Government’s strategy to remove the supply side constraints that have contributed to increasing house prices,” Mr Chandler said.

“What’s most exciting is the possibility of greenfield residential land release at Berrimah Farm. The NT Planning Commission and theDepartment of Lands, Planning and the Environment is developing a draft area plan for Berrimah Farm as we look to properly plan for future growth in the Darwin area.

“We’re close to awarding Katherine East Stage 1 to a developer; this site will deliver much needed residential dwellings for the Katherine community which has been ignored by Labor for over a decade.

“The Land Development Corporation is working hard with local Alice Springs businesses and L J Hooker, to deliver the first stage of Kilgariff. The Kilgariff headworks Contract has been awarded to local company Ostojic Group and the first 33 blocks went on sale recently and reports are they will proceed to contract of sale in a matter of weeks.

The Department of Lands, Planning and Environment has, through an audit of Crown land, identified more than 70 parcels of land suitable for infill development that could yield up to 2,700 dwellings.
A number of infill sites in Darwin, Palmerston, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs are all flagged for release this year. These sites could yield up to 360 dwellings and are ideal for quick development as they’re already located near essential services and public amenities.

“A Request for Proposals recently went out for the Sports House site in Fannie Bay on a site beautifully situated in one of Darwin’s premier suburbs.

“Crucial land in Tennant Creek, adjacent to the Police housing block on Blackmore Street, is due to go on sale this year. When developed this land could yield 8 dwellings, a huge boost for Tennant Creek.

“The Old Bowling Club in Alice Springs went to auction recently and has been identified for a residential development providing much needed housing for the local community.

“Investment in the Darwin rural area is being encouraged around District Centres through the development of Area Plans, supported by infrastructure delivery strategies.

“Area plans for the rural District Centres will assist Government with planning for orderly development to support demand in the rural area as well as encourage investment into civil and social infrastructure.

“It’s important to manage growth in the rural area well, striking a balance between the demand for housing and social services such as schools and recreational facilities while maintaining the sought after rural lifestyle.”

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