Territorians will soon be able to build an independent unit, commonly known as a granny flat, on their Single Dwelling (SD) block with fewer restrictions under changes introduced by the Country Liberals Government.

The changes will allow the occupant of an independent unit to be someone other than a dependant of a resident from the primary dwelling while also increasing the size of permitted units in rural areas by 30m².

Minister for Lands, Planning and the Environment Peter Chandler said home owners can construct an independent unit on their urban or rural block, without DCA approval, provided they meet certain criteria, such as:

- Floor area does not exceed 50m² (urban) or 80m² (rural);
- The independent unit is ancillary from the primary dwelling;
- Only one independent dwelling per an SD block;
- One additional off-street car park space per bedroom for the independent unit;
- Private open space of 45m² for the independent unit and 50m² for the single dwelling; and
- Standard building setbacks and height requirements as for single dwellings.

“Independent units in rural areas will now be allowed to be built with a floor size of 80m², increased from 50m² previously. This change better reflects the relative size of rural blocks to those in urban areas,” Mr Chandler said.

“Granny flats have traditionally provided an independent living option for grandparents or older children but they can now also offer affordable living alternatives for Territorians struggling under Labor’s housing crisis.

“It’s important the government explores all available housing options to give Territorians choice.

“That choice is being provided, with around 2000 units in the CBD either under construction or with an approved Development Application, and our urban infill program is providing greater density in inner suburbs.

“On top of that, the Country Liberals Government is already undertaking the most ambitious greenfield land release program in the Territory’s history aimed at delivering 6,500 homes.

“All this because we know the Territory is growing and people need places to live that they can afford.”

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