Shadow Housing Minister, Lynne Walker, today warned public housing overcrowding and homelessness was set to worsen in Alice Springs with the revelation the CLP Government is cutting funding to accommodation facilities.

“Housing Minister and Minister for Central Australia, Matt Conlan, revealed in Estimates hearings that the NT Government will be cutting funding of $674,000 to the Apmerre Mwerre short-term Visitor Park,” Ms Walker said.

“He also revealed plans to sell off Stuart Lodge, which provides accommodation primarily to families visiting town for medical reasons.

“This is bad news for Alice Springs and Central Australia with these cuts impacting on affordable, safe accommodation options available for bush visitors to Alice Springs.

“The $11 million Apmerre Mwerre Visitor Park was an initiative of the Territory and Federal Labor governments and since it opened in 2011 has provided safe, secure and accessible accommodation aimed primarily at bush visitors to Alice Springs.

“The Visitor Park, run by Aboriginal Hostels under an agreement with the NT Government, has provided accommodation to hundreds, if not thousands of visitors and has helped alleviate overcrowding in public housing.

“Families, sports teams, workers, people here for events, personal and cultural reasons, for shopping and accessing services all enjoy reasonably priced accommodation where drugs and alcohol are not tolerated.

“This revelation by Minister Conlan that funding to the facility is to stop on June 30 raises questions about what will happen from July 1.

“Will it be run on a commercial footing? Which private operator is the Minister negotiating with? Will the Minister guarantee there will be no cessation of service from July 1, just days before the Alice Springs Show?

“Matt Conlan must be the worst Minister for Central Australia ever.”

**Media contact:** Cathryn Tilmouth 0427 500 667