Media Release

David Tollner
Minister for Lands and Planning

Master plan? What master plan?

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Lands and Planning Minister David Tollner says Labor needs to stop dodging questions on the development master plan it endorsed only three years ago.

The party has refused to even acknowledge the existence of the Greater Darwin Plan 2012 - Growing the Territory document released by former Lands and Planning Minister Gerry McCarthy.

“I have taken a considered and difficult decision to approve the rezoning of land at Blake Street for residential development,” Mr Tollner said.

“It is my job as a minister to balance the often competing needs and views of the community on these issues and it is a responsibility I accept.

“What I find astonishing is the sheer hypocrisy of Labor in completely disowning the Greater Darwin Plan it produced only three years ago.

“This Growing the Territory plan specifically identified not just 4 Blake Street but the entire neighbourhood around this site – including land in the heart of the Botanic Gardens – as a high-density activity centre.

“The development I have approved pales into insignificance compared to Labor’s very ambitious vision for this area.

“Labor has failed to answer a single question on this master plan and has failed to mention it to the very residents its politicians are happy to pose alongside in the media.

“It has failed to explain why its position on this area now is the complete opposite of its position only three years ago.

“Such blatant political opportunism and hypocrisy cannot go unchallenged.

“Labor’s failure to support adequate residential development in the Territory is the number one reason why house prices and rents have surged in the Territory.
“If you are trying to get on the housing ladder Labor’s message is clear – we don’t care about you.”

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NB: A PDF copy of the 2012 plan can be supplied to media on request