Michael Gunner
Territory Labor Leader
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HOUSING NUMBER ONE PRIORITY AS LABOR LAUNCHES CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN BUSH CANDIDATES

Labor Leader Michael Gunner says the endorsement of Scott McConnell (Stuart) and Chansey Paech (Namatjira) means Centralian bush residents have the opportunity to elect two people who will bring experience in delivering for local residents, and give them a strong local voice in a new Government.

“I was born in Alice Springs and grew up in Tennant Creek. Chansey and Scott were also born in Alice Springs.

“Together with senior Labor Member Gerry McCarthy in the Barkly we will form part of a Government with a focus on Central Australia, its growth and its future,” Michael Gunner said.

“Our government will give all of Central Australia a voice.

“Both candidates have told me that the number one priority is more housing. And I agree.

“This is what we will do - more houses, better maintained, done by locals. I have tasked Chansey and Scott with the immediate job of working with their local communities on their housing priorities for the fully costed housing plan we will deliver before the next Territory election.

“This will complement and inform the extensive work that Gerry McCarthy, myself and the Territory Labor team have been doing.

“Over the last three years the CLP has dropped the ball on delivering houses, especially repairs and maintenance, to Territorians living in the bush.

“Housing in remote communities will form a significant part of the Territory infrastructure budget under a Labor Government. We will invest Territory funds in repairing existing housing and in building new houses.
“We will do this in a two stage way. First we will move quickly to deliver on immediate needs through increases to repairs and maintenance and the building of new housing in key priority areas in Central Australia.

“At the same time we will be working on a longer term plan with local communities, local authorities and shires to develop their capacity to deliver housing.

“People in remote communities have told me that the delays in getting housing repairs and the confusion around what the rules are, and who to contact and speak to is now worse than ever. This needs to be fixed immediately. Over the long term it is better to deliver housing maintenance and repairs, and ultimately new housing, as locally as possible.

“We also see housing construction, repairs and maintenance as an important job creation initiative that will provide skills that can be used across a wide range of local jobs,” Michael Gunner said.

Michael Gunner said that a Labor Government will be focused on delivering services that improve the quality of life and create jobs in Central Australia.

“I have committed to a focus on the early childhood years and to supporting the world leading work being done in Central Australia by organisations such as AMSANT, Congress and other key Aboriginal organisations.

“I have also committed to restoring trust and integrity to government by making us the most open, transparent, evidence based and innovation driven government in the Territory’s history.

“With Scott McConnell, Chansey Paech and Gerry McCarthy the people of Central Australia will have a team committed to them in a Government that will have their interests at heart,” Michael Gunner said.

Biographies for Chansey Paech and Scott McConnell are attached.

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