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AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT MUST REVERSE BAD GST HOUSING DECISION

Labor Leader Michael Gunner said today the Commonwealth Grants Commission’s decision to count all remote housing funding provided by the Australian Government as part of the GST allocation to the Territory will cost Territorians millions of dollars in lost revenue.

“This decision means there will be millions less dollars for services to remote communities.

“In the future all additional money provided to the Territory Government by the Australian Government through national partnership programs like NPARIH will be taken away from the GST allocation.

“Effectively this means the Australian Government will be giving with one hand and taking away with the other.

“Currently these programs provide housing for the poorest people in Australia. In the interests of equity, remote service delivery should be a major national project. States and Territories with extensive remote communities should partner with the Australian Government to improve the living conditions for thousands of Australians.

“Instead the Commonwealth Grants Commission has thrown spanner in the works and Labor calls on the Federal Treasurer to reverse this decision.”

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