13 December 2015

LARGEST INVESTMENT IN TERRITORY REMOTE HOUSING HISTORY

Labor Leader Michael Gunner today committed $1.1 billion to fund the most extensive remote housing construction, repairs, maintenance and home extensions program in Territory history.

Launching Labor’s remote housing package in Ngukurr today Michael Gunner said that Labor’s program would result in thousands of additional rooms being built over 10 years to house remotely located Territorians.

“The most significant infrastructure deficit and social issue impacting on Territorians living in remote communities is the lack of housing.

“Every Labor bush candidate has told me that housing is the number one issue. I have heard it myself repeatedly as I travel through the bush.

“Labor has listened and if we are elected to Government we will work to fix this problem.”

Michael Gunner said that Labor would:

• Provide five focused programs to construct new houses, build more living space and repair and maintain existing housing in the bush.
• Allow local recruits working for the Government to access Government Employee Housing.
• Devolve to shires, regional authorities or to housing organisations, decision making about what to build, where to build, how to build and who will build.
• Devolve the tenancy management for remote communities away from Territory Housing and Work with homeland residents to address new housing and repairs and maintenance in new and innovative ways.

Michael Gunner said that the funding would begin in 2017-18 following a round of extensive consultation.

“Importantly, we will talk to the Australian Government and seek their participation to help resolve this major national, Territory and local problem. By demonstrating our commitment we will lead the way to increase the commitment from the Australian Government,” Mr Gunner said.

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