Lands and Planning Minister Dr Chris Burns today announced an immediate Interim Development Control Order (IDCO) relating to high density development in Darwin’s residential areas.

Dr Burns said provisions relating to development at the interface between land zoned R1 (single dwelling) and R3 (four storeys) would be amended to restrict the density and intensity of future developments in Darwin.

“The NT Government is addressing long-standing community concerns about the density of development in residential areas - concerns that have been consistently ignored and neglected by the previous administration,” Dr Burns said.

Dr Burns said immediate controls over 100 lots in Darwin which are zoned R3 and adjoin or face R1 zoned blocks would restrict development to a three storey maximum, require 1.8m solid fencing and 3m landscaped buffer on relevant boundaries.

“The IDCO takes effect immediately and remains in effect for two years, during which time more permanent amendments to the town planning development provisions will be formulated.

“This means the proposed development on Ostermann St will now be limited to three storeys instead of four.”

Dr Burns said the NT Government had listened to strong community concerns about developments that were considered inappropriate immediately beside single dwelling locations.

“It is obvious that residents of Darwin value the unique, tropical nature of the city and want to preserve this lifestyle from inappropriate development.

“The proposed development at Coconut Grove has attracted strong opposition from existing residents, as have similar developments in the past. The NT Government has listened to these concerns and has had the courage to address a complicated issue that Territorians are very passionate about.

“The Government has also realised the concerns of developers and believes it has adopted a sound compromise.”