Tenders for the installation of security screens on public housing will be let in the next few weeks for Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs Housing Minister John Ah Kit announced today.

"It is important that public housing tenants in the Territory live in safe, secure environments—and proper home security has always been one of my objectives.

"Stage 1 of the 2003-2004 security screening program in our regional centres, at an estimated cost of $675,000 will go to tender in October. This will include Katherine – 70 dwellings at estimated cost of $225,000; Tennant Creek – 68 dwellings at an estimated $180,000; and Alice Springs – 139 dwellings at estimated cost of $270,000.

"The process to award a tender normally takes approximately six weeks (three for advertising and three for assessment). Completion dates would be based upon time to measure, manufacture and install the screens.

"The scope of work for Stage 2 is currently in the hands of the Department of Infrastructure Planning and the Environment.

"This will include Katherine East – 109 dwellings at estimated cost of $290,000; Tennant Creek (Elliott & Borroloola) – 34 dwellings an estimated cost of $100,000; Alice Springs – 73 dwellings at an estimated cost of $190,000; and Nhulunbuy – 111 dwellings at estimated cost of $300,000," said Mr Ah Kit.

The Stage 1 contract for security screening in Darwin, Casuarina and Palmerston for 354 dwellings has already been let and is due to be completed by 16 December 2003 at cost of $830,000. The Stage 2 contract for these areas will also be tendered in October and will cover 255 dwellings at around $675,000.