1 July 2005

1 JULY HOMENORTH EXTRA TO FOLLOW RECORD HOUSING YEAR

Less than two weeks after the election, the Martin Labor Government has moved to fulfil its promise to provide further improvements to HomeNorth—Australia’s most successful home loans scheme.

“From today—1 July—HomeNorth Extra will build on the last year’s record home loans, to ensure the Territory home loans scheme is responsive to the market, and to home buyers,” Housing Minister Paul Henderson said today.

“We want to ensure that Territorians can get their own patch of the Territory, with all the benefits home ownership brings.

“From today, we have increased the household income limits to $1166 a week—up 6 per cent—keeping the scheme in line with income growth.

“And from today, we have increased the threshold on dwelling purchases by 8.3 per cent—from $240,000 to $260,000.

“This responds to part of the strong growth in house prices in the Territory over the last year, without contributing to house price inflation.

“In addition, new and existing HomeNorth Extra borrowers in our Shared Equity loans will be able to buy out Territory Housing shares in dwellings in 5 per cent tranches instead of 10 per cent as it was previously.

“This allows people to get a greater share of one of their most important assets at a faster rate than before.

“With the further lowering of stamp duty for home buyers in the Territory, we have fulfilled our promise to Territorians at the election a few weeks ago—we are already on the job.”

Mr Henderson said that in the first year of the re-vamped HomeNorth scheme, 613 Territory households had loans funded, approved or approved in principle, to a value of over $107 million.

“This has included 159 households in Palmerston at a value of over $31 million, and 116 households in Alice Springs at a value of over $22 million,” said Mr Henderson.

“When the Martin Labor Government first considered upgrading the scheme last year, we were told to anticipate around 250 households to a value of $26 million,

“But Territorians have really demonstrated their commitment to living here and continuing to enjoy our great lifestyle.

“And with housing in the Territory the most affordable in the nation, people have voted to stay here in the Territory—in a home of their own.”

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