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POLITICAL REPORTER
Corey Sinclair

THE first 33 blocks of Alice Springs’ newest suburb are open for expressions of interest from today.

Chief Minister Adam Giles called it a huge milestone for the Kilgariff project, which will play a crucial role in the future of Alice Springs.

“A new suburb is exactly what a growing town like Alice Springs needs and I’m thrilled we’ve taken the next step by getting blocks out on the market,” he said.

“From today, prospective land buyers can register their interest in purchasing one of the 33 blocks off the plan with prices ranging from $160,000 to $180,000.

“I urge all prospective land buyers and home builders to get down to LJ Hooker and have a look at the affordable blocks on offer in this exciting new suburb.”

The blocks range from 700sqm to 900sqm and are an affordable option for most first home buyers.

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“There will eventually be up to 40 affordable residential blocks available in two stages, easing the squeeze in the local housing market,” Mr Giles said.

“Headworks are now well underway with local Alice Springs company, Ostojic Group, awarded the contract to complete stage 1.”

Mr Giles said it was anticipated that titles would be issued towards the end of the year and construction would then be able to begin.

“This is the first major residential development south of the Gap and should meet demand for housing in Alice Springs for 20 years,” he said.

“The former Labor Government failed to deliver on its housing promises for Alice Springs or properly plan for the town’s future. The Country Liberals are changing all that.”

The subdivision will include a community centre, a childcare centre and a sporting oval, as well as cycle paths.

Local real estate agent LJ Hooker is the sales agent for the project and is now accepting applications.

LJ Hooker Alice Springs managing director Doug Fraser said the release of land at Kilgariff was long overdue and Alice Springs has been crying out for residential land release for some considerable time.

Member for Barkly Gerry McCarthy recently said he felt the plan was not good economic management.

“It doesn’t show good vision for Alice Springs - it represents crisis management by the Chief Minister who is not delivering in his home town.”