DARWIN HOUSING SEVERELY UNAFFORDABLE

The 4th Annual Demographia International Housing Affordability Survey confirms that homebuyers on average incomes in Darwin are being squeezed out of the local housing market with Darwin being rated as severely unaffordable.

“With the median house price reaching $400,000, Darwin is now more expensive than Brisbane, Adelaide and Hobart,” says Terry Mills, Deputy Opposition Leader.

“The sharply increasing cost of houses in Darwin over the past few years will have a negative impact upon the future economic and social development of Darwin.

“Young families will be increasingly reluctant to move to and stay in Darwin if they are unable to purchase a reasonable home at an affordable price.

“It is of little comfort that a high median household income in Darwin has tempered our position in the overall affordability table – people on average incomes are being left behind.

“Unless Territory Labor acts to moderate the price of houses by the timely release of more land - teachers, nurses, posties, labourers, delivery drivers, shop assistants – won’t be able to afford to buy a family home.

“Territory Labor’s decision to limit the availability of land has pushed Darwin house prices beyond the reach of ordinary families.”

As Don Brash the former Governor, Reserve Bank of New Zealand says in his introduction to the report:

*And the one factor which clearly separates all of the urban areas with high Median Multiples from all those with low Median Multiples is the severity of the artificial restraints on the availability of land for residential building.*

*Australia is perhaps the least densely populated major country in the world, but state governments there have contrived to drive land prices in major urban areas to very high levels, with the result that in that country housing in major state capitals has become severely unaffordable,*

“As a small population occupying 1/5th of the continent the Territory has an abundance of land and should be one of the most affordable places to buy a house, not one of the most expensive,” says Mr Mills.

“Territory Labor is foolish to boast about the sharp increase in the price of houses in Darwin.”

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 833 594