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LATE AND HALF-BAKED

The Henderson Government’s appalling track record on land release continues to fail Territorians and place a significant drag on the economy.

Shadow Minister for Planning and Lands, Kezia Purick, said today’s announcement that work has finally started on the Bellamack development comes 21 months after details of the new suburb were first released.

And she said the bad news continues for Territorians who are crying out for more land and more affordable housing.

“In a full-page newspaper advertisement placed in March – the Henderson Government promised 230 blocks would be released at Bellamack in 2009.

“Today, less than two months later, Delia Lawrie’s lowered the figure to just 90 blocks this year.

“It’s further proof that the Henderson Government’s untruthful brand of Glossy Brochure Politics can’t to be trusted and that Labor will callously deceive ordinary Territorians who want to enter the housing market. “

Ms Purick said in the same advertisement, the Government promised an additional 200 lots would be released this year in Johnston.

“Based on previous experience, I suspect this commitment will be as flaky and unachievable as Labor’s previous Bellamack commitments.

“The Defence Housing Authority is also hunting around for an additional 160 housing blocks, which places a further squeeze on vacant house blocks.”
Ms Purick called on Delia Lawrie to explain the subtle change of language in relation to affordable housing in new housing developments.

When Bellamack was first announced in September 2007, Delia Lawrie said 15% of the land would be set aside for first homebuyers and public housing.

Today, Ms Lawrie said the 15% would go to public and social housing.

“The Government must explain exactly what’s meant by this change of emphasis,” Ms Purick said.

Further comment: Kezia Purick 0407 035 976