Kezia Purick  
Shadow Minister for Housing  
Media Release  

7th July 2009

BANISH THE LITTLE BOXES

The Henderson Government appears to be backing away from its plan to create tiny housing blocks for the proposed Bellamack Gardens development.

The Opposition has obtained an email showing the Territory Government is conducting focus group work with first home buyers and potential first home buyers on the Bellamack Gardens concept.

“Just a couple of weeks after the Chief Minister claimed that the airless little boxes of Bellamack Gardens would sell like ‘hot cakes’, he’s obviously having second thoughts about the wisdom of creating tiny blocks in the tropics,” says Kezia Purick, Shadow Minister for Housing.

“I can assure the Chief Minister that he doesn’t need expensive taxpayer funded focus groups to recognise his plan to create housing blocks as small as 150 square metres is a cooked goose.

“Virtually everyone I’ve spoken to is against the creation of these micro blocks and for very good reasons.

“Tiny housing blocks are un-Territorian and totally unsuited to the tropics.

“The ability to live outdoors is part of the Territory lifestyle and these micro blocks will have no room for a garden, no room for a lawn and no room between houses.

“The Henderson Government should scrap its plans to sell micro housing blocks in Bellamack Gardens.

“The smallest block on sale at the weekend land release in the Bellamack ballot was 640 square metres.

“I don’t think we should be going much smaller than that for detached dwellings in new suburbs.”

Further comment: Kezia Purick 0407 035 976