At the height of the worst housing crisis in the Northern Territory’s history, the Henderson Government must explain why not one developer this evening bid for available land at the proposed new suburb of Johnston.

Opposition Leader Terry Mills attended the auction and was stunned that none of the developers bid for the parcels of land on offer.

“The process was such that bidders were called and a successful bidder would have been entitled to enter into a commercial agreement with the Territory Government,” Mr Mills said.

“No bids were received because of the nature of that agreement. The terms of the agreement meant that it simply didn’t stack up and consequently no bids were received at all.

“I spoke to one developer who said he’d spent $40,000 in preparatory work in the lead-up to the auction.

“The general mood among disappointed developers was that the Government had mucked it up.

“All the developers were there with a genuine desire to invest in the land with a view to preparing it for release for sale to would-be home-owners.”

Mr Mills said the auction was a further sign of the Henderson Government’s ineptitude when it comes to providing enough land for Territorians to build houses.

“It’s this incompetence that sees Territory house prices continue to soar,” Mr Mills said.

“Today’s RP Data-Rismark September National Home Value Index showed that in the nine-months to September, house prices in Darwin were up 14.1% and the new median price is $478,911.

“Embarrassments like today’s auction reflect that Labor isn’t capable of properly managing the housing crisis.”

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 833 594