Territorians will have the opportunity to buy land in the new Palmerston suburb of Johnston from Saturday.

Chief Minister Paul Henderson today announced that two Territory companies had signed contracts to develop the first stage of Johnston.

“This land will be developed at a cracking pace, I recognise there is a need for more land for housing development and it is an absolute priority to deliver that land as quickly as possible,” Mr Henderson said.

“At 10 am today negotiations were finalised for development of the 27 hectares of land which will become the new suburb of Johnston.

“The sale of the land has been advertised in the NT News today and under the agreement with the Territory Government the two developers, Tomazos Constructions and Hannon Properties Group, must start developing the land by April this year.

“Prior to finalising the agreement with developers the Government had already begun $10 million worth of headworks at Johnston including new roads, power, water and sewerage.

“These headworks will be complete in July and development plans are already in place permitting the fast-tracking of development works for stage one of Johnston.

“In line with my Government’s Housing the Territory initiative, Johnston Stage 1 will provide around 364 new homes for Territorians.

“As part of the agreement with developers 19 single dwelling blocks of land in Johnston must be sold as affordable housing for no more than $140 000, including GST.

“In addition to this developers must provide land for 22 - 33 affordable townhouses.

“Over the next 5 years we will deliver enough land in Palmerston East to house 15 000 Territorians, including in Zuccoli and Mitchell.

In 2008 in the Darwin-Palmerston region 627 houses, units and apartments were completed. In 2009 it is estimated that between 1200-1300 houses, units and apartments were completed.

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