MEDIA RELEASE

HENDERSON SHOULD BACK RAAF PLAN

Terry Mills MLA

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The absurdity of the Federal Government’s plan to relocate almost 400 houses from RAAF Base Darwin – and the Henderson Government’s meek acceptance of this shonky scheme – ignores the needs of Territorians who can’t afford a home or who are forced into unsuitable accommodation because they have nowhere else to go.

Opposition Leader Terry Mills said Palmerston Grandmother Pauline Brown was sharing her two-bedroom Territory Housing unit in Palmerston with her daughter and three grand-children as a direct consequence of the housing crisis.

Mr Mills said Ms Brown’s daughter and two of her grandchildren had moved into the unit she already shared with another granddaughter because of the high cost of private rentals and shortage of public housing.

“The unit is fine for two people – for five people it’s cramped and unsustainable,” Mr Mills said.

“Ms Brown’s daughter and her children moved into the unit after the break-down of her marriage last November.

“It took six months for her to be placed on Territory Housing’s emergency waiting list and she has been told she may have to wait an additional six months before a place for the young family becomes available.”

Mr Mills said not only has the Henderson Government created the housing crisis through its inept land release program and management failures, now it’s prepared to exacerbate the problem by standing lamely by as Member for Solomon Damian Hale plans to move 395 RAAF houses.

“Paul Henderson should join with the Country Liberals candidate for Solomon, Natasha Griggs, and ensure the RAAF Base houses are saved and the land is excised,” Mr Mills said.

“Instead he and his mealy-mouthed Government are prepared to condone Damian Hale’s half-baked plan to relocate the houses to an undisclosed location.

“There are currently more than 100 empty houses at the RAAF Base that could be used to end the housing blockage caused by Paul Henderson’s incompetence.

“I urge the Chief Minister to put the interests of Territorians ahead of pathetic political posturing.”

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 833 594