Major milestone reached in new land release

Construction of the new suburb of Johnson Stage 2 is set to begin by the end of the year with the Territory Government today announcing Urbex Pty Ltd has been selected as the preferred developer to build the new suburb.

Minister for Lands and Planning Gerry McCarthy said final negotiations are underway with Urbex Pty Ltd to deliver Stage 2 of the new suburb Johnston, providing an estimated 500 new homes.

“The Henderson Government is committed to fast tracking the release of land in Palmerston East and providing Territorians with more affordable housing options,” Minister McCarthy said.

“With the preferred developer now chosen, final negotiations are underway to provide 284 lots in Johnston Stage 2 ranging from single, multiple and medium dwellings.

“We’re committed to providing affordable housing, and more than 15 per cent of the new lots will be made available for $140,000 to help Territorians enter the housing market.”

Minister McCarthy said Johnston Stage 2 is part of the Territory Government’s plan underway to provide new homes for 15,000 Territorians in Palmerston including:

- **Bellamack** - $12.5 million to provide infrastructure to 724 homes in the sub-division including roadworks, stormwater drainage, Water Sensitive Urban Design, and water, sewer and power headworks. So far 252 titles have been issued with 116 homes now under construction or approved for construction.
- **Johnston** - $33 million to fast-track Johnston, (including $4 million Australian Government funding) for the sewer pump station, to support Johnston and Stage 1 of Zuccoli. In total Johnston will provide 1200 homes. Titles have been issued for 202 lots in stages 1a and 1b.
- **Zuccoli** - $16 million to provide trunk sewer upgrades, electricity supply, water supply and road works to support the accelerated development of Stage One.
- **Weddell** - Site studies continue and planning is underway.

“Palmerston is a hive of construction activity, and sewer pipes, roads and powerlines are all being laid in anticipation of more new houses to come online this year,” Minister McCarthy said.

“We’re fast-tracking works to ensure we can get lots on to the market as soon as possible while planning for homes that will be needed in the longer term due to growth.

“It builds on our track record to roll out the delivery of new houses to the housing market to bring down the cost of living for Territorians. Last year in the Greater Darwin region it is estimated around 1100 houses, units and apartments were constructed. In 2008 more than 600 new houses, units and apartments were completed. In 2009 around 1300 houses, units and apartments were completed.”

The new suburb of Johnston will also include about a 44-dwelling seniors village, a commercial area, Catholic School and open space.

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