Housing Minister Gerry McCarthy has misled Territorians with his claim of record high quarterly dwelling unit commencements over the past decade.

Shadow Construction Minister, Ross Bohlin, said there’s no truth to Gerry McCarthy’s claim today that ‘the Territory posted the highest number of dwelling commencements in more than 10 years’.

“The March quarter figure is only the highest since last September,” Mr Bohlin said.

“That’s 9 years and 6 months short of 10 years.

“The unpalatable truth for Gerry McCarthy, the Henderson Government and Territorians is that dwelling prices are too high because not enough residential land has been released.

“Gerry McCarthy can try and disguise that by trolling out mangled statistics, but Territorians paying record house prices and the highest capital city rents in the country know the truth.”

Mr Bohlin said it was also absurd Mr McCarthy was trumpeting the success of HomeStart NT’s revised income caps.

“Out of 673 inquiries, only 60 applications by first home buyers were successful,” he said.

“For the remaining 90% of unsuccessful applicants, the price of housing was simply too high to proceed with a purchase.”

Further comment: Ross Bohlin 0413 339 417