The Territory Government is determined to provide affordable housing for Territorians and has already found thousands of hectares of land that can be developed for housing.

“The Country Liberals Government is committed to stimulating housing supply and stabilising prices which soared beyond the reach of ordinary Territorians during a decade of Delia’s former government,” Minister for Lands, Planning and the Environment, Peter Chandler, said.

In Budget 2013 an additional $20 million has been earmarked to accelerate land availability in Palmerston East.

The funds will advance the construction of over 900 homes in Stages 1 and 2 of Zuccoli.

“This will significantly increase the supply of land in the Greater Darwin area,” Mr Chandler said.

“The budget allocation of $20 million for land release in Palmerston East will be no surprise - the Country Liberals made land and housing an election platform and in Government we have been actively pursuing a course of responsible action to deliver more housing as we grow the economy.

“The Territory Government has moved with speed.

“The first stage of a whole-of-the-Territory land audit to identify Crown land for housing is underway.

“Regionally, in the early stages of the audit, we identified land in Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.

“In Darwin the sites include the 1.45 hectare Sports House site in Fannie Bay.

“The audit so far has revealed more than 70 sites, with potential for 2700 homes in our main towns.

“By the end of this year we will have about 20 lots of varying sizes ready for development.
In Palmerston 22 sites with potential for 500 dwellings have been identified, in Darwin 23 sites with 1860 dwellings, in Katherine 10 sites with 640 dwellings, in Tennant Creek eight sites with 13 dwellings and in Alice Springs nine sites with 115 dwellings.

“Developers and investors are keen to come on board and relish the new opportunities provided by the Country Liberals after years of stagnation under Labor.

“On coming into Government, the Country Liberals immediately got to work to move the Kilgariff residential subdivision ahead in Alice Springs and Budget 2013 will see $4.4 million spent to continue infrastructure works so a developer can start on creating lots.

“We have set up a Planning Commission to oversee development. This is a measured, smart approach to planning for new infrastructure and industrial, commercial and residential development as the Territory’s growing economy brings prosperity.

“The commission will advise on the layout of our towns and regions, and at all times take into account the preservation and improvement of our great Territory lifestyle.

“For the past decade Delia’s former government allowed a haphazard approach to development and basically chaos ruled. The Commission’s important work will turn this around,” Mr Chandler said.

The commission will also be able to call on the specialised skills of the new Government Architect, who was appointed by the Country Liberals after the post had been left vacant for more than six years. He will work with the Planning Commission and the Government on the development, design and standards of our urban environment and public spaces.

“Professor Lawrence Nield is a distinguished practitioner who is an advocate for better cities and adopts an environmental approach to architecture and planning,” Mr Chandler said.

“He has a particular interest in tropical design and is raising awareness for ventilation in city streets to reduce temperatures.”

**Media Contact:**
Judith Hughey 0409 863 383