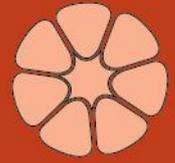




## MEDIA RELEASE

**Delia Lawrie**  
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION



17 December 2013

### **CLP DROPS THE BALL ON HOUSING AS COST OF LIVING ESCALATES**

The latest NT Council of Social Service (NTCOSS) report that shows Territory households are paying more of their income towards housing than the rest of the country is evidence that the CLP has broken their promise to lower the cost of living for Territorians, Leader of the Opposition Delia Lawrie said today.

Ms Lawrie said that after 16 months in Government the CLP were stuck in a blame game rather than getting on with the job of delivering affordable housing.

“In the last year under the CLP, the cost of rent in Darwin has increased 7.9 per cent, and the cost of buying a home in Darwin has risen by 8.3 per cent,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Territorians are struggling under the burden of increasing housing costs on top of soaring power and water bills and the CLP have no new land release plans to deliver affordable housing.

“The pressure of high cost of living is hurting Territory families and there is no relief in sight, just increased costs thanks to an out-of-touch Government.

“Some people have had to take on two jobs to pay these bills; others have resorted to packing up and leaving the Territory for a cheaper life interstate.”

Before CLP won government, Labor had fast-tracked land release through Lyons, Muirhead, Palmerston East and Kilgariff and had delivered two home finance schemes My New Home and Home Start Extra to assist Territorians out of the rental roundabout and into home ownership.

“As former Treasurer I delivered significant investment in infrastructure to support the fast-tracking of land release and in the last budget Labor had \$15.9 million to deliver Johnston and Zucoli sub-divisions which the CLP now lamely claim as their own.

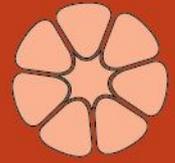
“The facts are that Labor worked with Defence Housing to turn off Lyons and Muirhead and fast-tracked the Palmerston East and Palmerston CDU land to yield the suburbs of Bellamack, Johnston Ridge, Johnston The Parks, Zucoli and The Heights Durack.”

Ms Lawrie pointed out that Labor created Venture Housing – an affordable housing rental company that was provided with land to develop and commenced the redevelopment of urban infill public housing projects such as Worrina which became Village @ Parap.



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“Plans were well advanced to deliver the new city of Weddell, which would have provided housing for up to 50,000 people but the CLP have scrapped this important land release project and replaced it with no new land release,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Sadly the scrapping of two housing finance schemes and Weddell is seeing increased pressure on a market that needed stimulus rather than a reduction in schemes.

“The CLP answer of piggy-backing off 2000 federal NRAS scheme dwellings doesn’t deliver one new home owner – yet at the same time they scrapped the first home owner incentive boosts.

“The unit developments booming in Darwin were all planning and buildings approved under Labor, and are enjoying the investment stimulus that flowed as a result of the Ichthys Project Final Investment Decision, but the problem is that since then the CLP have simply dropped the ball.

“What is also of grave concern is the CLP decision to go hard on evicting public housing tenants and then allow the stock to be empty while they plan to sell it off so that homelessness is growing rather than reducing.

“The CLP are lacking in planning vision – having scrapped the Greater Darwin Strategic Land Use Plan – and are heartless in their contempt shown to homeless Territorians.”

Ms Lawrie said the NTCOSS report states the demand for public rental properties in the next 10 years is expected to rise by 32.3 per cent.

“The homelessness rate in the NT is 730 per 10,000 people - 15 times the national rate,” she said.

“Darwin is in the midst of a housing crisis, and it will only going to get worse. What are the CLP Government’s plans to remedy this situation?

“Is the CLP too busy looking for quick cash grabs from selling public assets like Darwin Bus and PowerWater to care about ensuring Territorians have an affordable roof over their heads?”

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