



Media Release

Peter Styles

Deputy Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, Minister for Business

Home Improvement Scheme to start work early

26 May 2016

The overwhelming response from Territory tradies and home owners to the Northern Territory Government's \$20 million Home Improvement Scheme has prompted the government to fast-track the program start date.

Minister for Business Peter Styles told NT Parliament today the initiative would now be open to homeowner-occupiers from next Sunday, 5 June.

Mr Styles said Territory tradies and homeowners have given the Government's Home Improvement scheme an overwhelming thumbs up.

"The Home Improvement Scheme has captured the attention of the Territory since the Treasurer announced it as part of Budget 2016 on Tuesday," Mr Styles said.

"As of this morning the website had received more than 6000 hits and in excess of 70 tradies and businesses had or were in the process of registering.

"There has been a wave of enquires from homeowner-occupiers interested in taking advantage of the vouchers to go towards upgrading their homes.

"It is basic mathematics why tradies and the community have given Government the tick of approval ahead of the Labor Opposition Leader's idea.

"Under our plan up to 10,000 homeowner-occupiers – including first home buyers are eligible.

"Under Michael Gunner's idea only 500 first home buyers would receive any benefit - that's just \$5 million dollars going to tradies and Territory small businesses compared to the government's \$20 million direct investment and the expected flow-on benefits to the economy estimated at \$67 million.

"The Opposition Leader should ask tradies if they would prefer 10,000 clients or 500 and he should ask Territory mums and dads and pensioners living in their own homes if they could use up to \$2000 to go towards improving their homes and properties.

"We want to see the greatest possible benefit achieved for local tradies, small businesses and home owner-occupiers so we will bring forward the date and get the work happening now."

Under the initiative Territory homeowner-occupiers will receive vouchers of up to \$2,000 to go towards minor home improvements, repairs or maintenance works on the condition they use local small businesses or tradies and contribute at least the same amount.

Projects must be small-scale (less than \$20,000), the voucher value depends on the size of the project and will be from \$250 to a maximum of \$2,000.

The scheme was initially to run from 1 July 2016 through to 30 June 2017 or until the \$20 million grant pool was used.

“Given the popularity of the initiative the Chief Minister has confirmed he would extend the program and increase the funding allocation if the economy still requires it,” Mr Styles said.

“This unprecedented response shows just how effective the initiative will be in stimulating work for our local small businesses, tradies and sole traders.”

Home owner-occupiers can source quotes from now and make their applications to government from Sunday, 5 June.

Homeowner-occupiers are encouraged to source multiple quotes for their home improvement projects.

A list of the small businesses currently registered is attached and the list will be available and updated daily on the website homeimprovement.nt.gov.au or contact the Department of Business on 1800 193 111.

Terms and conditions of the scheme are available [here](#).

Media Contact: Rebecca Barr 0407 284 066

[Home Improvement Scheme small business list](#)