



**GARY HIGGINS**  
**OPPOSITION LEADER**

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*For immediate circulation*

## **Housing stimulus stalemate**

Another day, another broken promise and more missed opportunity for local business revealed in Estimates by the Opposition.

The Minister for Housing unveiled that just 58 per cent of his \$69 million housing repairs and maintenance program will actually be paid out this financial year, despite his previous commentary to the contrary. The Minister for Housing had previously promised to spend the \$69 million stimulus package by 1 July 2018.

**During Estimates Hearings this afternoon, the Opposition was told:**

***“...we will have about \$35m to \$40m actually paid out by then (1 July 2018)...”***

Leader of the Opposition, Gary Higgins said this is yet another example of Labor’s inaction, costing jobs opportunities for Territorians and work for businesses when they need it most. Again, we see a significant revote into the future.

“On 14 May 2018, the Minister for Housing issued a media release claiming that ‘so far, over \$37 million in work is underway or completed.’

“Here we are a month to the day later, and nearing the end of the financial year, and it is revealed in Estimates that the Minister will not manage to get the \$69 million out the door by the end of the financial year, as he promised.

“At a time when the Territory economy is in rapid decline, it is paramount that Labor does what it can to cut the red tape and drive the economy, as a stimulus package is designed to do,” said Mr Higgins.

**ENDS**

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