



GARY HIGGINS OPPOSITION LEADER

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For immediate circulation

Housing paving the way for private investment

The Opposition welcomes today's announcement to improve housing for some of the Territory's most disadvantaged people and stimulus for Territory-based businesses, however, how much money will be spent in which locations remains unclear.

Speaking from Alice Springs, Leader of the Opposition Gary Higgins said the Labor government should continue to explore the opportunity to work with the private sector to decrease the public housing waiting list.

"The Northern Territory is in a very tough economic landscape and it is important that the government continues to encourage private investment.

"While today's announcement was light on detail, it should be noted that the government continues to drag the chain on its much-lauded capital works program, which, the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics report, to 31 January 2018 shows a significant underspend of just \$434.9 million of the \$1.87 billion capital works program.

"It is also imperative that all of these works take place through consultation with local communities and Indigenous stakeholders, such as Tangentyere Council in Alice Springs.

"Addressing housing will assist in remedying the chronic disadvantage of some Territorians," said Mr Higgins.

NORTHERN TERRITORY PUBLIC HOUSING WAITING LIST:

Region	1 bedroom	2 bedroom	3 bedroom
Alice Springs	4 to 6 years*	2 to 4 years	4 to 6 years*
Casuarina/Darwin	6 to 8 years*	less than 2 years	4 to 6 years*
Palmerston	4 to 6 years	less than 2 years	2 to 4 years
Katherine	4 to 6 years	4 to 6 years*	2 to 4 years*
Nhulunbuy	2 to 4 years*	2 to 4 years*	2 to 4 years*
Tennant Creek	4 to 6 years*	6 to 8 years*	4 to 6 years*

*Due to limited stock and turnover, median value cannot be applied.

These waiting times are based on actual waiting times of all general applicants housed in a region over the past 12 months.

The list does not include wait times for priority applicants.

PREVIOUS PAGE: *Estimated waiting times for public housing as of 31 December 2017.*
Source: <https://nt.gov.au/property/public-housing/apply-for-public-housing/waiting-list>

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