



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
COUNCIL OF TERRITORY CO-OPERATION
MEDIA RELEASE – 3 JUNE 2010**

**PUBLIC HEARING TO INQUIRE INTO TENANCIES ARRANGEMENTS
FOR SIHIP DWELLINGS AND PROGRESS WITH LOCAL
GOVERNMENT REFORM**

THE COUNCIL OF TERRITORY CO-OPERATION WILL TODAY HEAR FURTHER FROM KEN DAVIES CHIEF EXECUTIVE, AND OTHER OFFICERS, OF NT DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL SERVICES ABOUT THE TENANCY ARRANGEMENTS FOR DWELLINGS, BOTH NEW AND REFURBISHED, UNDER SIHIP.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL, GERRY WOOD MLA, WELCOMED YESTERDAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT BY MINISTER BURNS ABOUT A "NEW RENTAL SYSTEM TO IMPROVE REMOTE HOUSING". MR WOODS SAID "THE COUNCIL HAS BEEN ASKING FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THESE ARRANGEMENTS AT RECENT SITE VISITS IN BOTH CENTRAL AUSTRALIA (SANTA TERESA WHICH THE COUNCIL VISITED ON 11 MAY) AND IN THE TOP END (NGUIU AND GROOTE EYLANDT) VISITED IN FEBRUARY." MR WOOD SAID ALSO "IT IS PLEASING TO SEE THE NT GOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT". HOWEVER MR WOOD WENT ON TO SAY "AS ALWAYS THE DEVIL IS IN THE DETAIL."

SO TODAY THE COUNCIL AT A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE ASKING KEN DAVIES ABOUT THE NEW RENTAL SYSTEM AND ALSO ABOUT OWNERSHIP OF THESE HOUSES. THE COUNCIL HAS CONCERNS THAT THE SUB-LEASES OVER THESE ASSETS ARE STILL BEING NEGOTIATED WITH THE COMMONWEALTH'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TOWNSHIP LEASING.

THE COUNCIL WILL ALSO BE EXPLORING REGIONAL SERVICES PLANNED FOR GROWTH TOWNS AND PROGRESS UNDER SIHP.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM AND PROVISION OF SERVICES BY SHIRES WILL BE FOCUS OF APPEARANCE BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF NT ALSO AT TODAY'S HEARING TOO.

MR WOOD SAID THE HEARING WILL BE CONDUCTED FROM 10AM UNTIL 1.30PM AND WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE DINING ROOM ON LEVEL 4 OF PARLIAMENT HOUSE IN DARWIN.THE HEARING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

ENDS