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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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*For immediate circulation*

**Country Liberal Government will crack down on anti-social behaviour in public housing**

A Country Liberal Government will enforce a demerit point system as part of a four-pronged plan to crack down on anti-social behaviour and property damage in Territory Housing, to ensure vulnerable people on the waitlist are prioritised over those who continue to break tenancy agreements, Opposition Leader Lia Finocchiaro said today.

“Territory Housing tenants deserve to live in an environment free of anti-social behaviour and damage, which is why a Country Liberal Government will help Territory Housing tenants manage their tenancies to enhance safety and amenity,” Mrs Finocchiaro said.

A Country Liberal Government will:

- **Enforce a six demerit point system** – Penalties will be chalked up for anti-social behaviour and damage to property. Tenants will be informed about what exactly constitutes a breach and a demerit point. Once six demerit points are accrued, a tenancy may be terminated.
- **Empower Public Housing Safety Officers** – We will develop a refined case management system for correct record keeping to ensure complaints don’t slip through the cracks, while expanding the Public Housing Safety Officer service by expanding the hotline to a 24/7 response. Currently the service hotline is only run during business hours and after hours complaints go to Police.
- **Make visitors accountable for damage** – Any visitor who damages property will be held accountable for their actions.
- **Increase tenancy support** – We will offer incentives for Territory Housing tenants who value-add to their property, including incentives to encourage public housing tenants to become homeowners. We will also increase support to tenants to ensure they are able to meet the terms of their lease and obligations.

New tenancies will also be subject to a six month probation period.

“Public housing waiting lists are on average 7 years long in the Territory. Those who have been fairly waiting, need to be prioritised over those, who on numerous occasions refuse to do the right thing or respect their property,” Mrs Finocchiaro said.

“All Territorians deserve a home and we need to enforce the rules to ensure safety and amenity is maintained,” Mrs Finocchiaro concluded.

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