



Delia Lawrie
MINISTER FOR LANDS AND PLANNING

13 MARCH 2007

DEMOUNTABLES APPROVED

Northern Territory Minister for Lands and Planning, Delia Lawrie, today announced the Government has approved the Exceptional Development applications submitted by the Commonwealth Government for temporary accommodation hostels in Alice Springs.

The Commonwealth Government submitted the applications for two sites at Lot 8132 Len Kittle Drive and Lot 7717 Dalgety Road. The applications involve the establishment of demountable accommodation units for use as temporary visitor accommodation.

The need for such accommodation was identified by the Alice Springs Town Camps Taskforce.

In response to the taskforce report the Commonwealth Government offered to fund the establishment of the accommodation facilities as part of a \$50 million town camps package.

“The Government recognised the interest in the community in relation to this proposal and undertook extensive public consultation,” said Ms Lawrie.

“The Development Consent Authority (DCA) took public submissions and held public hearings earlier this year. 120 submissions were received and the public hearings were very well attended.

“The DCA acknowledged the need for such facilities in Alice Springs, but in its recommendation to Government, did not support either application. They recommended that should the Government approve the applications strict conditions should apply.

“The Government very carefully considered the advice from the DCA. It was decided that the benefits this would bring Central Australians meant the project should proceed.

“The Government recognises the significant concerns in Alice Springs to this proposal and will apply strict conditions on establishment and operation.

“However the establishment of temporary visitor accommodation is an important aspect of the Government’s commitment to address social issues in Alice Springs.

“A strong management plan will be put in place to ensure nearby residents and businesses are not adversely affected by these temporary visitor sites,” said Ms Lawrie.

The applications have been approved for a period of seven years.

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