



NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT MEDIA RELEASE

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DR PETER TOYNE MLA Attorney-General

RETAIL TENANCY PUBLIC FORUMS KICK OFF

Public forums on proposed new safeguards for retail and business landlords and tenants are underway across the Territory with the first meeting to be held in Darwin on Monday night.

Attorney-General Dr Peter Toyne said the draft legislation addresses gaps in the regulation of business tenancies and is well overdue in the Territory, with all other Australian jurisdictions implementing key tenancy principles into law as far back as 1997.

“Presently there are no safeguards for landlords and tenants because tenancy legislation does not exist.

“The new draft legislation will deliver a regulatory process for tenancies which strikes a balance between the rights of tenants and property owners.

“The draft legislation aims to establish fair, open and transparent processes between tenants and landlords with a dispute process that contains the costs for both parties.

“Issues addressed in the draft legislation and accompanying paper include key money, disclosure statements, rent reviews, ratchet clauses and the scope of proposed legislation.

“I encourage the retail sector, landlords and developers to participate in the forums and provide comment on the draft Bill.”

Public forums are scheduled in major Territory centres and the closing date for submissions is 31 March 2003. The discussion paper is available online at <http://www.nt.gov.au/ntg/forcomment.shtml> and mail by phoning 8999 7454.

Business/Retail Tenancies Legislation public forum dates:

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| Darwin | 10 March | 6.30pm Novotel Atrium |
| Katherine | 11 March | 6.30pm Katherine Visitors Information Centre |
| Tennant Creek | 12 March | 6.30pm Civic Centre |
| Alice Springs | 13 March | 6.30pm Mercure Inn Diplomat |
| Palmerston | 17 March | 6.30pm Palmerston Sports Club |
| Nhulunbuy | 20 March | 5.45pm Nhulunbuy High School |

CONTACT: Sonia Peters 0401 119 550