



# NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT MEDIA RELEASE

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## **DR PETER TOYNE MLA** Attorney-General

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### **NEW SAFEGUARDS IN BUSINESS TENANCIES LEGISLATION**

The Territory's business rental market is set to benefit from new draft legislation that offers protections to landlords and tenants.

Attorney General Dr Peter Toyne said the new legislation will address gaps in the regulation of business tenancies when it is introduced and passed in Parliament later this year.

Issues surrounding retail tenancies hit the national agenda in 1997 when all states and territories, except the Northern Territory, agreed to introduce key tenancy principles into law.

Attorney-General Dr Peter Toyne said the legislation is well overdue with a number of public discussions over the years bringing to light significant issues that need to be addressed in law.

"This new draft legislation has incorporated industry concerns and takes the best from other jurisdictions to give Territorians a regulatory process that strikes a balance between the rights of tenants and property owners."

Dr Toyne said the legislative framework aims to establish fair, open and transparent processes between tenants and landlords with a dispute process that contains costs for both parties."

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

"We are now looking for comment and input from industry and interested parties," Dr Toyne said.

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 [www.nt.gov.au](http://www.nt.gov.au) and mail by phoning 8999 7454.

Business Tenancies Legislation public forum dates:

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

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