

Communiqué | Meeting 10, 17 November 2021

The Joint Steering Committee held its tenth meeting on Wednesday 17 November 2021. Representatives from the Australian Government National Indigenous Australians Agency, Northern Territory (NT) Government Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities, NT Government Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, Central Land Council, Northern Land Council and Tiwi Land Council were in attendance.

Australian National Audit Office Observers

The meeting was observed by the Australian National Audit Office as part of its in-progress performance audit to assess the effectiveness of the National Indigenous Australians Agency's administration of funding for remote housing in the Northern Territory.

Performance Summary

The NT Government tabled a Performance Summary as at 30 September 2021. Members noted improvements to presentation of data in the Performance Summary and provided further feedback.

The Performance Summary provides a break down by Expenditure, Value of Contracts Awarded, Number of Contracts Awarded, Land Servicing, Overcrowding and Program delivery for HomeBuild and Room to Breathe, including quarterly progress at the community level.

Reporting Framework

Members noted NT Government updates to the Reporting Framework for verification and assurance and discussed opportunities to build on existing processes.

Capital Works Delivery

Members continued to discuss the sustained acceleration required to meet the delivery targets, including procurement, Aboriginal employment and contingency arrangements. JSC partners will continue to work together to actively monitor and manage the program.

Remote Rent Framework and Communications Strategy Development

Members noted NT Government updates on its Remote Rent Framework and work to develop an updated Communications Strategy.

Land Council Update on Leasing Applications

Land Council members advised they continue to monitor the status of leasing applications. There were no major issues raised by NT Government or Land Council members in relation to the overall housing delivery program.

Joint Review of Remote Housing and Leasing Subcommittee

Members noted National Indigenous Australians Agency updates on the Subcommittee's work with an expert provider to progress the second phase of the Joint Review which focuses on remote housing.

The next meeting was agreed to be held in February 2022 in Darwin.