

Joint Steering Committee for Remote Housing Northern Territory

Communiqué

16 March 2023

The Joint Steering Committee (JSC) held its fifteenth meeting on Thursday 16 March 2023 in Darwin. Representatives from the Australian Government's National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), the Northern Territory (NT) Government's Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, and Chief Minister and Cabinet, Central Land Council, Northern Land Council, Tiwi Land Council, Anindilyakwa Land Council and Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory were in attendance.

The NT Government provided members with an update on the impact of flooding in Kalkarindji, Dagaragu and Pigeon Hole and efforts underway to support communities where housing has been damaged or remains inaccessible.

Joint Steering Committee Work Plan and Terms of Reference

Members discussed the Joint Steering Committee's Work Plan, and agreed the five key projects and lead agencies that will report to the Joint Steering Committee.

The Committee approved an update to the Terms of Reference, which reflects the committee's oversight of the Australian Government's Restoring Funding for NT Homelands \$100 million investment in Northern Territory Homelands, and housing related targets in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

Australian Government Investment in Homelands and Housing

Members discussed the Australian Government's \$100 million investment to deliver urgent housing and essential infrastructure to NT homelands. The NT Government provided an update on work underway and the process for working with communities to inform priorities.

Progress of Capital Works

Members noted the NT Government update on capital works delivery under the National Partnership. The challenges involved in the delivery of the capital works program was discussed, including rising construction costs and labour capacity. Members noted flooding has exacerbated many of the challenges, and impacted the accessibility of many remote communities.

Review of Agreement – National Partnership for Remote Housing NT

Members noted PWC Indigenous Consulting (PIC) has been engaged to undertake a review of the National Partnership. As part of the review, PIC will seek input and information from members. Members noted the outcomes of the review may inform future delivery of housing in remote communities.

Aboriginal Community Housing Trials

Members discussed opportunities for Aboriginal Community Housing Trials. The NT Government provided an update on the work underway through their Community Housing Growth Strategy, and Land Councils discussed the commencement of potential trials within their regions.

Sub-committee Joint Review of NT Housing and Leasing Models

Members noted the Sub-committee has undertaken the Joint Review of NT Housing and Leasing Models. The finding and recommendations identified in the reviews and Sub-committee members' feedback will be considered in the five key projects under the committee's forward work plan. Members approved the publication of the Housing Model Report.

Next Meeting The next meeting will be held in June 2023 in Alice Springs.



Australian Government



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TERRITORY
GOVERNMENT



Anindilyakwa
Land Council



CENTRAL
LAND
COUNCIL



NORTHERN
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TIWI
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