Joint Steering Committee for Remote Housing Northern Territory

Communiqué

23 and 24 June 2026

The Joint Steering Committee (JSC) held its 27th meeting on 23-24 June 2026 in Garamilla (Darwin). Representatives attended from the Anindilyakwa Land Council, the Central Land Council, the Northern Land Council, the Tiwi Land Council, Aboriginal Housing NT (AHNT), the Australian Government's National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) and the Northern Territory (NT) Government's Department of Logistics and Infrastructure and Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development (DHLGCD).

Housing in Remote Communities

The JSC noted 346 houses have been delivered across 41 remote communities and 3 town camps since the commencement of the 10-year NT Remote Housing Federation Funding Agreement on 1 July 2024 (as at 31 March 2026). In 2025-26 (as at 31 March 2026), 124 houses were delivered, achieving an average energy efficiency rating of 6.9 stars, with some new builds in tropical regions exceeding 8 stars. Aboriginal Business Enterprises delivered 71 of these houses (57 per cent).

Members also noted the proposed extension of 23 repairs and maintenance contracts to 30 June 2027 to support the transition to cyclical maintenance. However, workforce capacity constraints and seasonal weather impacts continue to pose risks to housing delivery, as well as repairs and maintenance activities.

DHLGCD provided an update on emergency management in remote communities, particularly recovery and repatriation activities in Palumpa (Nganmarriyanga) and Nauiyu (Daly River).

Homelands

Members noted delivery of projects to provide urgent repairs and maintenance to housing and essential infrastructure continues. Bawinanga Homelands Aboriginal Corporation and Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation presented to the JSC highlighting the complexities facing homelands service providers and the urgent need for policy and funding certainty. .

Members considered policy options for long-term, sustainable investment in housing on NT Homelands and agreed that their preferred policy position is an investment option that provides funding for repairs and maintenance, as well as housing upgrades and the construction of new housing and replacement of houses considered 'beyond economic repair'. Government members will brief their respective Ministers on the options and JSC's preferred position.

Partnership Agreement Review

The Joint Steering Committee will undertake a 2-year review of the Partnership Agreement, as outlined in the terms of the Agreement. Members discussed the scope of the review and agreed to continue working together to develop the Terms of Reference.

Australian Government · Northern Territory Government · Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory

Anindilyakwa Land Council · Central Land Council · Northern Land Council · Tiwi Land Council

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Strategic Plan to Transition Housing to Aboriginal Control

AHNT presented the Strategic Plan to Transition Housing to Aboriginal Community-Control to members. The plan outlines 3 implementation phases over 10 years and was accepted by members. The NT Government and the NIAA will provide the strategic plan to their respective Ministers for consideration.

Next Meeting

The next JSC meeting will be held in September 2026 in Mparntwe (Alice Springs).

Australian Government

NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT

Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory

Anindilyakwa Land Council

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

NORTHERN LAND COUNCIL

TIWI LAND COUNCIL