

# Joint Steering Committee to the National Partnership for Remote Housing NT Communiqué | Meeting 12, 19 May 2022

The Joint Steering Committee (JSC) held its twelfth meeting on Thursday 19 May 2022 in Alice Springs. 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 Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet, Central Land Council, Northern Land Council and Tiwi Land Council were in attendance. Apologies were noted from the Anindilyakwa Land Council.

## Governance Framework, Communications Strategy and Strategic Risk Report,

The NT Government tabled the Governance Framework, Communications Strategy, and quarterly Strategic Risk Report for the JSC.

The Governance Framework for the JSC consolidates existing governance, risk management, communications, reporting and assurance, and financial management and procurement documentation practices. The Governance Framework reflects the JSC's existing Terms of Reference and Risk Framework and complements a separate proposed Communications Strategy specific to the National Partnership for Remote Housing in the Northern Territory (the National Partnership).

The Communications Strategy reflects existing community engagement, which remains a key priority, and increased opportunities for promotion of program progress as National Partnership delivery matures.

Members endorsed the Governance Framework, Communications Strategy, and risk mitigation as reported.

## Progress of Capital Works

The NT Government has consolidated the information on the progress of capital works which covers the key aspects of housing delivery, the strategies developed to accelerate delivery, commentary at a Community level and COVID19 and other issues impacting housing delivery.

The reporting provided as at 31 March 2022 includes 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.

Members discussed the impact of COVID-19 related challenges, including travel restrictions, increases in the cost of materials and labour shortages. Members also noted the rising cost of fuel resulting from international events and supply chain issues due to environmental factors across Australia.

Members continued to discuss the sustained acceleration required to meet the delivery targets, including procurement, Aboriginal employment and contingency arrangements. Members noted ongoing advice from the NT Government on procurement activities for delivery of a mitigation strategy additional to the agreed program.

Members will continue to work together to actively monitor and manage delivery of the agreed program and the mitigation strategy.

## 2022-23 Annual Capital Works Plan

The NT Government presented the 2022-23 Annual Capital Works Plan which was endorsed by the JSC.

## Land Council Update on Leasing Applications

Land Council members provided updates on leasing matters relevant to program delivery. There were no major issues raised by NT Government or Land Council members.



Australian Government  
National Indigenous Australians Agency



Anindilyakwa  
Land Council



NORTHERN  
LAND COUNCIL



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

### Joint Review of Remote Housing and Leasing Subcommittee

A presentation from PwC Indigenous Consulting (PIC) on the second phase of the Joint Review of Remote Housing and Leasing Subcommittee was presented. PIC detailed their findings, including outcomes from research, stakeholder consultations, options for optimum remote housing model, and implementation actions for a transition to an Aboriginal-controlled community housing sector.

Members noted the Joint Review of Remote Housing and Leasing Subcommittee will provide final report to the JSC out of session in June 2022. Opportunity will be available for further discussion at the next JSC meeting in August 2022.

### ANAO Performance Audit

The ANAO completed its performance audit to assess the effectiveness of the NIAA's administration of remote housing in the Northern Territory and tabled its report on 22 February 2022. The full report can be found at the ANAO's website.

The NIAA agreed to all five ANAO recommendations, acknowledging actions already underway to address all recommendations, and anticipates completion of all actions by mid-2022.

Members noted the update provided by the NIAA on implementation actions to address the ANAO recommendations.

### JSC Strategic Planning Workshop

The JSC Strategic Planning Workshop is to be held in late June/July 2022 which will consider the future direction of NT housing program and determine a strategic map for the JSC's future planning.

### Next Meeting

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