

Joint Steering Committee for Remote Housing Northern Territory

Communiqué

23 November 2023

The Joint Steering Committee (JSC) held its eighteenth meeting on Thursday 23 November 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 Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet, Central Land Council, Northern Land Council and Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory were in attendance. Representatives from Anindilyakwa Land Council and Tiwi Land Council were apologies.

Capital Works Delivery in Remote Communities

The NT Government provided an update on the delivery of housing in remote communities. Members noted that the full delivery of the National Partnership for Remote Housing NT capital program was expected before January 2024 and delivery under the one-year NT Remote Housing Funding Agreement is ahead of schedule.

Homelands

The NT Government provided an update on the \$100 million Homelands Housing and Infrastructure Program which is undertaking urgent repairs and maintenance to housing and infrastructure across NT homelands.

Members noted the first stage of rapid response works is well underway, and works are complete in the Utopia homeland of Atheley, and in Paru on the Tiwi Islands. Members also noted an update on progress to commence works identified in Regional Work Plans, developed in partnership with Land Councils, Aboriginal Housing NT and the NT Government.

Future options for remote housing investment

JSC members considered and endorsed the co-designed investment principles to underpin future funding agreements for remote housing in the Northern Territory. The 10 principles (Attachment A) include consideration of shared governance and decision making, a commitment to long-term and sustainable funding, support for Aboriginal employment, recognition of all stages of housing delivery, consideration of climate changes and prioritising housing delivery according to demonstrated need.

The principles are consistent with the shared commitment, and aligned to priorities, under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. The JSC also discussed the proposed actions to ensure the principles are put into practice. The principles provide an important and substantial foundation for future remote housing funding agreements.

Evaluation

The Menzies School of Health Research presented on the Healthy Homes Monitoring and Evaluation Project Final Report and work underway on the evaluation of the Homelands Housing and Infrastructure Program. Members noted the presentation and discussed the evaluations, with learnings to be considered in future remote housing delivery in the NT.

Communications Strategy

Members discussed the updated Communications Strategy that will provide information to communities, residents and other key housing stakeholders on historic, current and planned investment in the remote housing investment program.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 22 February 2024.



Australian Government



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TERRITORY
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Anindilyakwa
Land Council



CENTRAL
LAND
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