

Joint Steering Committee for Remote Housing Northern Territory

Communiqué

16 and 17 September 2025

The Joint Steering Committee (JSC) held its 24th meeting on 16 and 17 September 2025 in Garamilla (Darwin). Representatives were in attendance from the Australian Government's National Indigenous Australians Agency, the Northern Territory (NT) Government's Department of Logistics and Infrastructure and Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development, the Anindilyakwa Land Council, the Central Land Council, the Northern Land Council, the Tiwi Land Council and Aboriginal Housing NT (AHNT).

Minister Attendance

Senator the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy, Minister for Indigenous Australians, met with members of the JSC to discuss progress in delivering housing for remote communities. The Minister emphasised the importance of working in partnership.

The Minister noted JSC's views on the importance of housing in homelands. She also acknowledged the potential for remote housing programs to generate local employment and support business development, and invited members to share their views on opportunities within the manufacturing sector.

Aboriginal Caucus members of the JSC spoke to a prepared collective statement advocating for a genuine partnership approach, underpinned by improved data sharing and transparent decision-making. Their collective statement reinforced that these reforms are critical to achieving the objectives of the Partnership Agreement.

Housing Delivery in Remote Communities

In 2024–25, a total of 222 houses were constructed across 31 remote communities and two town camps. Quarterly reporting indicated that the average home included 3.7 bedrooms and achieved an average Energy Efficiency Rating of 6.6 stars. 122 (55%) of the houses were constructed by Aboriginal Business Enterprises.

Property and Tenancy Management (PTM) remains a key priority for the Joint Steering Committee (JSC), particularly the transition to a Cyclical and Preventive Maintenance model.

The JSC will consider the draft 2026–27 Annual Work Plan at its December meeting.

Homelands

The NT Government provided an update on progress under the Homelands Housing and Infrastructure Program (HHIP). Members welcomed news that works have commenced in Mapurru, and that remaining projects funded through the initial \$100 million investment are nearing completion.

Under the additional \$120 million investment, works will be delivered across 110 homelands between 2024 and 2027. To date, 17 contracts have been executed across the Central Land Council (CLC), Tiwi Land Council (TLC), and Anindilyakwa Land Council (ALC) regions.

Members requested the Housing on NT Homelands Working Group to develop policy options, including consideration of investment conditions, and to provide advice in December 2025.



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Implementation of the Partnership Agreement for Remote Housing and Homelands
Yamagigu has been contracted to support the JSC in finalising the overarching Implementation Plan for the Partnership Agreement. During the meeting, Yamagigu provided an update on the first Partnership Health Check, identifying opportunities to strengthen information sharing and accountability across stakeholders.

Members noted the progress made in drafting the overarching Implementation Plan.

JSC Working Groups

Partners discussed the need to identify clear deliverables for each of the Working Groups and provide them with further direction on priorities.

A Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for NT Remote Housing and Homelands that was developed through the Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group was endorsed by members.

Strategic Plan to Transition Housing to Aboriginal Control

AHNT has engaged Nous Group to work with the JSC, AHNT members and the sector to develop the Strategic Plan to transition NT remote housing to community control. Nous Group presented to members the outcomes of the sector consultation to support the Strategic Plan to transition Housing to Aboriginal Control. Members discussed the need for a staged approach that balances legal and financial risks. AHNT noted the work is progressing well and a consultation report will be completed by late September. AHNT and Nous Group will present in December on the priority areas identified for the Strategic Plan.

Presentations

AHNT member, Wilya Ajjul Janta Aboriginal Corporation provided a presentation on their pilot homes in Tennant Creek. JSC members discussed opportunities to support housing design innovation and will continue this discussion at the December 2025 meeting.

The Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water presented to the JSC on the Social Housing Energy Performance Initiative (SHEPI). The presentation proposed an approach to addressing delivery challenges including the development of best practice implementation guidelines for jurisdictions engaging in remote delivery and welcomed the views of the JSC.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in December 2025 in Darwin.

