

Joint Steering Committee to the National Partnership for Remote Housing NT



Communique – Meeting #2

The Joint Steering Committee (JSC) held its second meeting in Darwin on 6 November 2019. Each of the JSC members, the Anindilyakwa Land Council (ALC), Australian Government (NIAA), Central Land Council (CLC), Northern Land Council (NLC), Northern Territory Government (NTG), and Tiwi Land Council (TLC), were in attendance.

Property and tenancy management

The JSC considered the draft Property and Tenancy Management (PTM) Framework. Additional amendments were agreed to be made to the PTM Framework, which included more clearly identifying that the long-term intention is for PTM delivery to transition towards greater community control. The revised PTM Framework will be endorsed by the JSC and made publicly available.

The JSC discussed and agreed the importance of PTM towards better health outcomes in communities. The NTG committed to providing a paper and/or presentation which details how PTM is practically delivered and how Healthhabitat's 'Housing for Health' Guide is being incorporated.

Capital Works Program for 2019-20

The NTG gave an update on Local Decision Making (LDM) consultations surrounding the Capital Works Program for 2019-20, which provides for the replacement of houses considered Beyond Economic Repair in central region communities. Consultations have occurred in 15 of the 26 communities due to receive capital works. The NTG will provide a revised Capital Works Plan for 2019-20 following the LDM process at community level.

The JSC was interested in gaining more details regarding the NTG's LDM consultation process. The NTG committed to present on this at the next JSC meeting and members were also invited to attend LDM consultations to see the process in action.

Development of the Reporting Framework

The JSC discussed the draft of the Reporting Framework provided by the NTG. The JSC recognised that qualitative reporting and linkage to an evaluation strategy was not yet incorporated in the draft. The development and finalisation of the Reporting Framework has been delegated to a JSC subcommittee.

Progress of Joint Review into the Housing and Leasing Models

At its first meeting, the JSC agreed to establish a subcommittee to conduct the Joint Review of the Housing and Leasing Models. NIAA provided an update to the JSC on the formation of the subcommittee, which includes officials from NIAA, NTG, the four Land Councils, Aboriginal Peak Organisations NT and Aboriginal Housing NT. An initial teleconference was held by the Subcommittee on 5 November 2019. A second meeting is to be held by the Subcommittee in December 2019, where it will consider the draft Terms of Reference.

Other business

The JSC received a number of presentations on matters key to the delivery of the NPA to ensure all members are well informed. The NTG presented on its Remote Housing Needs and Assessment Model. Of particular interest to the JSC was the ability for the model to identify current overcrowding, and forecast requirements for the future of both completed and proposed capital works.

NIAA presented on the Australian Government's Indigenous Procurement Policy and associated reporting arrangements. The NTG expressed interest in trialling the tool.

Next meeting was agreed to be held in Canberra on 13 February 2020.