

Joint Steering Committee for Remote Housing Northern Territory

Communiqué

27 June 2023

The Joint Steering Committee (JSC) held its sixteenth meeting in Darwin on Tuesday 27 June 2023. 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; Anindilyakwa Land Council; and Aboriginal Housing NT were in attendance.

The NT Minister for Housing and Homelands, the Hon Selena Uibo opened the meeting, acknowledging the significant work underway by JSC members to improve housing for remote communities and homelands. Minister Uibo confirmed the Australian and NT Governments have executed a one-year agreement to continue delivery to remote communities when the current National Partnership for Remote Housing NT ceases on 30 June 2023.

Remote Housing NT Agreement – 2023-24 Capital Works Delivery

The NT Government presented the Remote Housing Work Plan for delivery in 2023-24 under the new one-year Remote Housing NT Agreement. JSC members discussed delivery under the Agreement, and the significant effort that has already occurred to ensure at least 157 houses are delivered to communities with significant levels of overcrowding.

Capital Works Delivery to Remote Communities

Members noted the update on delivery under the National Partnership for Remote Housing NT, and the increased rates of delivery. The NT Government provided an update on the estimated number of bedrooms expected to be delivered under the Partnership Agreement by 30 June 2023.

The Committee discussed the impact of recent national and world events on supply chains, logistics and labour markets and subsequent increases in the cost of remote housing, the strategies in place to mitigate these risks, and the lessons learned to inform future delivery.

Aboriginal Community Housing Trials

Members discussed the progress of Aboriginal Community Housing Trials. The NT Government is engaging with the Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation to consider a trial in the Barkly region, and with the Anindilyakwa Housing Aboriginal Corporation on a trial on Groote Eylandt.

Homelands Housing and Infrastructure Program

Members discussed the progress of the Homelands Housing and Infrastructure Program, which will deliver the Australian Government's \$100 million investment to housing and essential infrastructure on NT homelands. Works are progressing under the initial \$25 million 2022-23 Rapid Response Package, and Aboriginal Housing NT and both the Central and Northern Land Councils have undertaken significant consultation and engagement to develop Regional Work Plans that will inform delivery in 2023-24.

Presentation by the NT Office of Water Security

The NT Office of Water Security attended the meeting to provide an update on the Territory Water Plan, and outline the priorities the NT is seeking to have funded through the National Water Grid Authority.



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Review of Agreement – National Partnership for Remote Housing NT

Members endorsed the final report for the review of the National Partnership for Remote Housing NT, noting the report will be published on the NIAA, Commonwealth Treasury and NT Government websites.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in August 2023 in Alice Springs.



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