

Joint Steering Committee for Remote Housing Northern Territory

Communiqué

14 and 15 April 2026

The Joint Steering Committee (JSC) held its 26th meeting on 14 and 15 April 2026 in Garamilla (Darwin). Representatives attended from the Anindilyakwa Land Council, the Central Land Council, the Northern Land Council, the Tiwi Land Council and Aboriginal Housing NT (AHNT), the Australian Government's National Indigenous Australians Agency and the Northern Territory (NT) Government's Department of Logistics and Infrastructure and Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development (DHLGCD).

Housing Delivery in Remote Communities

Members reviewed capital works and property and tenancy management delivery from 1 October –31 December 2025. 316 new houses have been delivered across 40 remote communities and 3 town camps since the 10-year NT Remote Housing Federation Funding Agreement began on 1 July 2024 (as at 31 December 2025). In 2025-26, houses have achieved an average energy efficiency rating of 6.8 stars and 53 houses (56 per cent) were delivered by Aboriginal Business Enterprises.

DHLGCD provided an update on flood response activities in remote communities, including the application of Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. Future reporting will capture any impacts of flood response on planned works.

Members provided feedback on a draft 2026-27 Annual Remote Housing Work Plan, with NT Government agreeing to update the Work Plan and circulate to members for further consideration out-of-session.

Homelands Project Delivery

Members welcomed advice that all remaining works under the Homelands Housing and Infrastructure Program are expected to be completed by 2027. AHNT highlighted ongoing inflationary pressures affecting homelands service providers, particularly fuel costs, and their impact on service delivery within existing budgets.

Partnership Agreement Implementation

Members endorsed a Strategic Risk Plan and a Verification Framework to strengthen assurance of housing delivery outcomes. The Committee discussed a draft Communications and Engagement Strategy, highlighting the importance of clear, accessible communication materials to support members and communities.

In response to changing conditions, members agreed to bring forward the scheduled 2-year review of the Partnership Agreement to assess current circumstances and explore options for the future.

Working Groups

The JSC noted strong progress across the Working Groups. The Housing on Homelands Working Group presented 4 high-level investment options for discussion. The Repairs and Maintenance Working Group reported on development of a Cyclical and Preventive Maintenance Plan.



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Strategic Plan to Transition Housing to Aboriginal Control

AHNT has engaged the 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 on the draft Strategic Plan, outlining 3 implementation phases over 8 years. Members provided early feedback and agreed to consider the Strategic Plan again in June 2026 JSC.

Next Steps

The next JSC meeting will be held in June 2026 in Garamilla (Darwin), with targeted workshops to be convened in May 2026 to progress the two-year Partnership Agreement review.



Australian Government



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Aboriginal Housing
Northern Territory



Anindilyakwa
Land Council



CENTRAL
LAND
COUNCIL



NORTHERN
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TIWI
LAND
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