

Joint Steering Committee to the National Partnership for Remote Housing NT Communiqué | Meeting 11, 3 February 2022

The Joint Steering Committee held its eleventh meeting on Thursday 3 February 2022. Representatives from the Australian Government National Indigenous Australians Agency, Northern Territory (NT) Government Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities, NT Government Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, Northern Land Council, Anindilyakwa Land Council and Tiwi Land Council were in attendance.

Strategic Risk Report and Performance Summary

The NT Government tabled the Committee's updated Strategic Risk Report and a Performance Summary as at 31 December 2021. Members endorsed risk and mitigation as reported, noted performance for Quarter 2 2021-22 and noted further improvements to presentation of data.

The Performance Summary provides a break down by Expenditure, Value of Contracts Awarded, Number of Contracts Awarded, Land Servicing, Overcrowding and Program delivery for HomeBuild and Room to Breathe, including quarterly progress at the community level.

Capital Works Delivery

Members discussed the impact of COVID19 related challenges, including travel restrictions, increases in the cost of materials and labour shortages.

Members continued to discuss the sustained acceleration required to meet the delivery targets, including procurement, Aboriginal employment and contingency arrangements. Members noted advice from the NT Government on procurement activities for delivery of a mitigation strategy additional to the agreed program.

Members discussed the interaction of enforced biosecurity zones and local preferences for community access with scheduled program delivery for the remainder of 2021-22. JSC partners will continue to work together to actively monitor and manage delivery of the agreed program and the mitigation strategy.

Remote Rent Framework

Members noted NT Government updates on implementation of its Remote Rent Framework this year, including recruitment and training of additional remote tenancy officers and planning for community visits where possible.

Governance Framework and Communications Strategy

The NT Government tabled a proposed Governance Framework for the Committee which consolidates existing governance, risk management, communications, reporting and assurance, and financial management and procurement documentation and practices.

The Governance Framework reflects the Committee's existing Terms of Reference and Risk Framework and complements a separate proposed Communications Strategy specific to the National Partnership.

The Communications Strategy reflects existing community engagement, which remains a key priority, and increased opportunities for promotion of program progress as National Partnership delivery matures.

Members undertook to review and finalise the Governance Framework and Communications Strategy.

Land Council Update on Leasing Applications

Land Council members provided updates on leasing matters relevant to program delivery. There were no major issues raised by NT Government or Land Council members.

Joint Review of Remote Housing and Leasing Subcommittee

Members noted National Indigenous Australians Agency updates on the Subcommittee's work with an expert provider continuing to progress the second phase of the Joint Review which focuses on remote housing. A workshop on overarching principles and interim findings is to be held in February 2022.

The next meeting was agreed to be held in May 2022 in Alice Springs.