

# Joint Steering Committee to the National Partnership for Remote Housing NT Communiqué | Meeting 14, 1 December 2022

The Joint Steering Committee (JSC) held its fourteenth meeting on Thursday 1 December 2022 in Alice Springs. 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, Tiwi Land Council, Anindilyakwa Land Council and Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory were in attendance.

Members acknowledged the late CLC Chair and paid their respects by holding one minute's silence in his honour prior to commencing proceedings.

## Joint Steering Committee Terms of Reference

Members agreed to amend the Committee's Terms of Reference to add representatives from Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory (AHNT). Skye Thompson, the CEO of AHNT was welcomed to the meeting.

Members also supported an additional member from the NIAA, with the Group Manager, Central Group joining the Committee.

## Australian Government Investment in Homelands and Housing

Members discussed the Australian Government's commitment to deliver urgent housing and essential infrastructure to Northern Territory homelands. Members agreed to the principles developed by the NT Government to guide investment of the homelands commitment and noted work underway to guide implementation of the investment. The JSC agreed to provide oversight of the \$100 million investment into Northern Territory homelands, and supported the establishment of a homelands sub-committee of the JSC to guide delivery of this investment. Further work is required to develop the detail of these arrangements, and ensure Committee members are provided with the opportunity to contribute to the long-term vision on NT homelands.

## Progress of Capital Works

Members noted the stage of capital works and further acceleration is required to meet delivery targets. The update from NT Government noted increased activity over the last three months with an average of almost one house being delivered each day. The rate of delivery is on track to continue increasing in 2023, subject to weather events.

Members continued to discuss the challenges in delivering the capital works program, including the increase in housing construction costs, labour and material shortages, extended timeframes to negotiate leases, extended capacity of existing contractors and Aboriginal Business Enterprises, and the upcoming wet season.

## Review of Agreement – National Partnership for Remote Housing NT

Members agreed the Terms of Reference for a review into the National Partnership for Remote Housing in the NT. Members noted the broader work underway to review the processes that support the delivery of housing in remote NT communities and raised the need for a qualitative review to fully capture experiences of tenants.

## Aboriginal Community Housing Trials

Members discussed potential communities for the delivery of Aboriginal Community Housing Trials. The Land Councils will work with Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory to identify and recommend potential communities for the Trial Programs.

### Closing the Gap Implementation in the NT

Representatives from Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory and the NT Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet attended the meeting to provide the JSC with an update on implementation of Closing the Gap in the NT. Members noted the NT Executive Council on Aboriginal Affairs oversees implementation of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap in the NT, and agreed that the JSC will have an oversight role of the housing-related targets included in the Agreement.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in February 2023 in Darwin.