

Joint Steering Committee for Remote Housing Northern Territory

Communiqué

9 and 10 December 2025

The Joint Steering Committee (JSC) held its 25th meeting on 9 and 10 December 2025 in Garamilla (Darwin). Representatives attended from the Australian Government's National Indigenous Australians Agency, the Northern Territory (NT) Government's Department of Logistics and Infrastructure and Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development, the Anindilyakwa Land Council, the Central Land Council, the Northern Land Council, the Tiwi Land Council and Aboriginal Housing NT (AHNT).

Minister Attendance

The Hon Steven Edgington MLA, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Development attended the meeting on 9 December. The Minister noted the progress made of housing delivery to date and talked about the NT Government's commitment to a repairs and maintenance program. Members highlighted the work being done by the JSC to develop a policy position on longer-term, sustainable investment in NT Homelands and the Minister advised that he would welcome advice from the Committee on options for future investment.

Housing Delivery in Remote Communities

Members considered the reporting on the delivery of capital works and the property and tenancy management program between 1 July and 30 September 2025. Since the 10-year NT Remote Housing Federation Funding Agreement commenced on 1 July 2024, 264 houses have been constructed across 34 remote communities and 2 town camps to 30 September 2025. On average, the houses have achieved an Energy Efficiency Rating of 6.6 stars and 141 (53%) of the houses were constructed by Aboriginal Business Enterprises (ABEs).

Property and Tenancy Management remains a key priority for the JSC, particularly the transition to a Cyclical and Preventive Maintenance model.

Members agreed to provide feedback on a draft 2026-27 Annual Work Plan by January 2026, ahead of the plan being brought forward to the Committee for endorsement in March 2026.

Homelands

Members noted the update provided by the NT Government on projects being delivered under the Homelands Housing and Infrastructure Program (HHIP). Members welcomed news that all contracts to 2027 are in place

The Housing on NT Homelands Working Group presented early investment options for consideration. Members requested the government members work with their respective departments and Ministers to understand the scale of investment. The Working Group will provide updated options for JSC consideration in March 2026.

JSC Working Groups

Partners noted the significant work across the Working Groups in the last quarter.

The Repairs and Maintenance Working Group provided an update on development of a Cyclical and Preventive Maintenance Plan, a key priority for the JSC.

The Land Tenure Working Group committed to come back in March 2026 with options on a process for communities and town camps to be included in the 10-year NT Remote Housing



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Federation Funding Agreement.

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 early draft of the Strategic Plan to transition Housing to Aboriginal Control. AHNT and Nous Group will present to the JSC again in March 2026 on the draft Strategic Plan.

Partnership Agreement Implementation

A suite of documents drafted to guide implementation of the Partnership Agreement, and the actions that the JSC will take to achieve objectives of the 10-year NT Remote Housing and the Restoring Funding for NT Homelands Federation Funding Agreements were presented to the JSC. Members endorsed the revised Terms of Reference, a Terms of Reference template to support the Working Groups, a Governance Framework and the 2025 Annual Partnership Health Check. Members agreed that further updates to the Communications and Engagement Strategy and the Strategic Risk Plan are required; with updated documents to be presented to the JSC in March 2026.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in March 2026 in Darwin.



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