

Joint Steering Committee to the National Partnership for Remote Housing NT Communiqué | Meeting 13, 18 August 2022

The Joint Steering Committee (JSC) held its thirteenth meeting on Thursday 18 August 2022 in Darwin. 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 Chief Minister and Cabinet, Central Land Council, Northern Land Council and Tiwi Land Council were in attendance. Apologies were noted from the Anindilyakwa Land Council.

Strategic Risk Report and Performance Summary

The NT Government tabled the Committee's updated Strategic Risk Report and Performance Summary as at 30 June 2022. Members endorsed risk and mitigation as reported, and noted performance for Quarter 4 2021-22.

The reporting provided as at 30 June 2022 includes 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.

Progress of Capital Works

Members continued to discuss the sustained acceleration required to meet the delivery targets, including procurement, Aboriginal employment and contingency arrangements. Members noted ongoing advice from the NT Government on significant procurement that are expected to substantially increase the number of new builds before the expiry of the program. JSC partners will continue to work together to actively monitor and manage the program to ensure delivery of agreed outcomes.

Increase to the Cost of Capital Programs

Members continued to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 related challenges. Members noted NT Government updates on the increase in housing construction costs, respective changes in the construction market, and NT Government contribution.

Land Servicing Costs and Availability

Members noted NT Government updates on progress in developing additional serviced housing lots and that the cost of developing serviced land was increasing.

Joint Review of Remote Housing and Leasing Subcommittee

Members noted NIAA updates on the Subcommittee's work to finalise the Joint Review before the end of the calendar year. Opportunity will be available for further discussion at the next JSC meeting in November 2022.

Status of Land Tenure Applications

Members noted the status of leasing applications for public housing in remote communities and agreed to prioritise application support in order to support the delivery of the accelerated program.

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.

Property and Tenancy Management Measures – Milestone Targets

Members approved an extension of the existing Property and Tenancy Management Measures – Milestone Targets to 30 June 2023.

Next Meeting

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