



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 107

WRITTEN QUESTION

K McNamara to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Development, Hon Steven Edgington MLA:

Investments in Public Housing

These were questions prepared for the Department for Estimates, however, due to time constraints were unable to be asked.

- 1. Is the Northern Territory (NT) Government committed to transferring a further 260 public tenancies to the Community Housing Sector?**

The NT Government supports development of a robust Community Housing sector, as intended under the Community Housing Strategy. A number of public housing assets have already been transferred to Community Housing Providers as part of the Strategy. With this Strategy now being evaluated, all future potential commitments will be paused, pending the recommendations from the evaluation.

- 2. If so, when does the Department estimate that this will occur?**

The NT Government will review all recommendations from the evaluation of the Community Housing Strategy, once finalised, to ensure that appropriately informed decisions can be made. The evaluation is expected to be completed towards the end of 2025, all decisions will be communicated as appropriate.

- 3. Will the NT Government endorse the *NT Community Housing Growth Strategy 2022-32*?**

The NT Government is commencing an internal process evaluation of the NT Community Housing Growth Strategy 2022-32 (Strategy). The process evaluation will assess the design and implementation of program milestones to date. It will identify areas for improvement in the program design and delivery to enable full consideration of future community housing growth initiatives.

4. **If not, what is the Government's plan for the community housing sector?**

N/A

5. **How much money has the current community housing sector contributed to the NT economy by being able to access the Commonwealth Rent Assistance?**

The economic impact of the Commonwealth Rent Assistance in the NT is expected to be captured in the evaluation of the Strategy, which will provide more detailed data on sector contributions.

6. **What is the NT Government's plan to roll out 1,200 new homes in the NT in the next four years?**

The Department continues to develop appropriate housing supply pipelines, both within NT Government and in partnership with the Community Housing and private sectors.

7. **The NT Government has provided \$5 million to add to the Federal government's \$5 million for energy performance upgrades for social housing in the NT will be used to install up to date, energy efficient air conditioning units in 600 houses in remote NT. This works out at \$16,666 per unit. How was this program costed?**

Phase one of the Social Housing Energy Program Initiative (SHEPI) concluded in February 2025 with the installation of 115 split-system air conditioners (55 in Ali Curung and 60 in Yeundumu). Phase two of the program is currently in the planning stage and may focus on further reducing energy consumption, reduce energy bills, and improving thermal comfort of tenants and residents in approximately 600 houses across remote NT. The Department is rolling out an air-conditioning program across the NT. The program will provide all new remote housing with air conditioning and a retrofitting program will provide new installed or upgraded air conditioning to existing housing under a retrofitting program.

8. **What progress has been made in the rollout of this program?**

As above.

9. What is the government doing to improve the energy efficiency of social housing throughout the NT?

The Department understands the importance of improved energy efficiency across public housing. The Department works closely with a range of providers to ensure awareness of energy efficiency options and best practice. The SHEPI program outcomes will provide useful data for the Department to consider future options.