

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Housing and Community Development:

#### **Galiwin'ku Housing Asbestos**

Please advise what is being done in regards to the housing and asbestos problems in Galiwin'ku?

Answer:

Since 2016, the Department of Housing and Community Development has constructed 59 new remote community housing dwellings, of which 49 were replacement dwellings, damaged during Cyclones Lam and Nathan.

Asbestos containing material was identified in late 2017, which delayed the construction progress while an Asbestos Management Plan was developed by a qualified asbestos hygienist.

Asbestos containing material has now been safely sifted and soil removed from the lots where homes are currently under construction. Surface asbestos containing material has also been removed from 17 other lots and appropriate clearance certificates issued.

To date, the Northern Land Council has been raising awareness of the issues among the Traditional Owners, while the Department of Housing and Community Development has held community meetings, with interpreters, to discuss the construction delays to the replacement housing program due to the identified asbestos containing material in the soil.

The Northern Land Council and the East Arnhem Regional Council have agreed in-principle to split the costs with the Department for the development of a Whole of Community Asbestos Management Plan and engaging a consultant to develop community messaging in a culturally appropriate manner, including interpreting in Yolngu Matha. On 29 August 2018, the Australian Government advised that it will not be financially contributing to these projects.

The National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements program will see a further 31 dwellings constructed. Of these:

- six are nearing completion and are anticipated to be completed in October 2018;
- sixteen dwellings were awarded to Norbuilt Pty Ltd for \$10.92 million on 14 September 2018; and
- nine dwellings are undergoing procurement.

In addition to the above works, a subdivision construction tender closed on 24 September 2018. These works will provide a further 24 lots for housing to be constructed on.

Galiwin'ku is also planned to receive works through the Room to Breathe program, which will see additional living spaces provided to existing homes in addition to new houses being constructed through the HomeBuild NT program.