Town Camps
Northern Territory

NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT
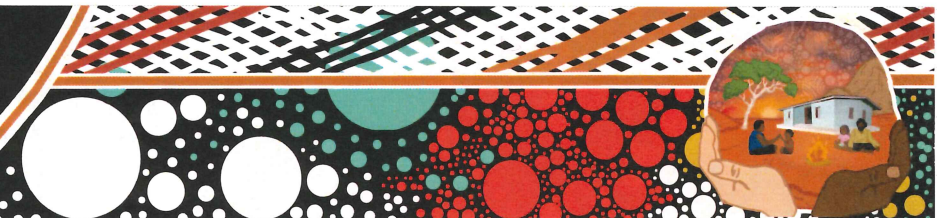
Town Camps in the Northern Territory

- Town Camps are an important part of the wider community and in many locations, are fully integrated into their surrounds.

- Town Camps are highly valued by their residents and families and continue to be visited by family and friends from connected remote communities.

Who we are working with

The Town Camps Futures Unit has engaged with town camp stakeholders, including residents, the Aboriginal controlled housing sector, key non-government sector peaks and the Aboriginal Peak Organisations of the Northern Territory, to inform the five-year plan for town camps and to roll-out the town camps infrastructure program.

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Town Camps Futures Unit External Advisory Group

The Town Camps Futures Unit has established an External Advisory Group that provides advice to inform the development of the five-year plan for town camps. Members of the External Advisory Group are representatives from the Aboriginal Controlled Housing Organisations (ACHO's) who are currently responsible for service provision areas of town camps and community living areas.

These are:

- Yilli Rreung Housing Aboriginal Corporation - Darwin
- Pine Creek Aboriginal Advancement Association Inc. - Pine Creek
- Kalano Community Association - Katherine
- Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Association incorporated - Borroloola
- Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation - Tennant Creek
- Tangentyere Council and Central Australian Affordable Housing – Alice Springs
- Aboriginal Housing NT

Palmerston Indigenous Village

Sewer main upgrade project

The Town Camp Futures Unit Housing and Infrastructure Program recently funded a unique project in the Palmerston Indigenous Village (PIV) town camp.
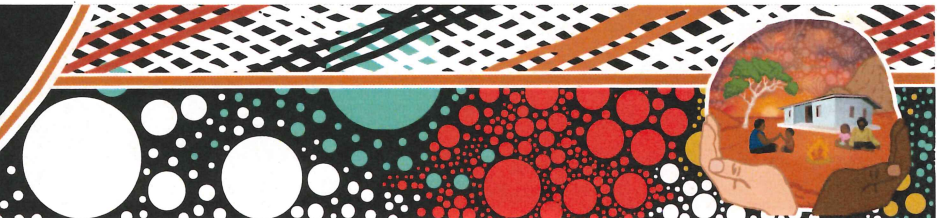
The Town Camp Review highlighted that the existing sewerage arrangements at PIV needed to be upgraded. The existing sewerage system (septic tanks and pump station) was old, regularly breaking down and becoming costly to maintain.

The recommended upgrades involved creating a new connection to Power and Water infrastructure, in the neighbouring suburb of Johnston, on the other side of the Stuart Highway.

The Town Camps Futures Unit worked with Aboriginal housing provider Yilli Rreung Housing, who awarded contracts to Quality Plumbing & Building Contractors and SCP Engineers. Through the Aboriginal housing provider and engagement of local contractors the project was able to provide employment opportunities for 10 local town camp residents for the duration of works.

The community infrastructure works, which involved tunnelling under the Stuart Highway, were the most expensive completed by the program at a cost of $744,998.
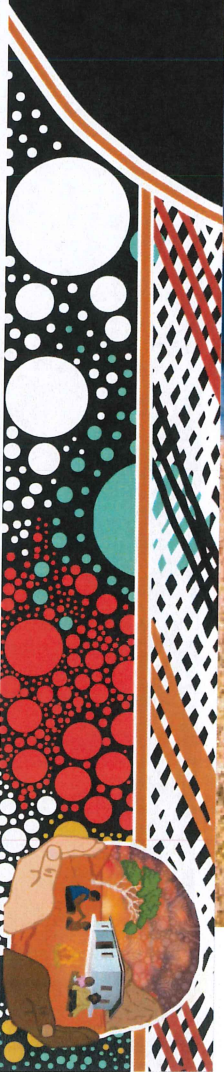
The project commenced in June 2018 and was completed in November 2018, with all the houses in PIV now connected to the new sewer infrastructure resulting in cleaner and healthier living conditions for the community.

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Gareth who received employment on the project

Infrastructure works taking place in PIV

Works taking place in Johnston connecting the tunnel and pipe from PIV to the main sewerage network
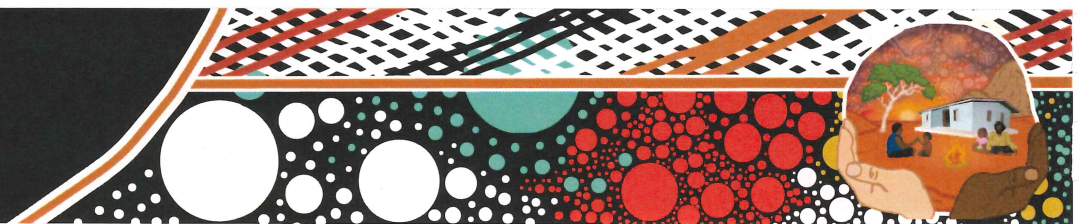

The location of where the tunnel was dug under the Stuart Highway

Remediating the land in Johnston at the completion of the project

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Generational change and jobs for locals: Elliott, Marlinja set for housing upgrades

Homes in the Territory's most central communities are set for a makeover thanks to a $5.5 million investment by the Labor Government.

Around 60 homes will be upgraded at Elliott's Wilyugu and Gurungu camps and at the Marlinja Homelands, 25 kilometres to the north of the town.

The successful tenderer, Power Projects, has already been onsite, scoping three vacant houses that will be upgraded for use as transitional accommodation.

Elliott locals, Gary Ulamari and Darren Raymond, have joined the Power Projects team as full-time employees and will be working on a range of tasks.

Power Projects will also subcontract to a local business and engage with Community Development Program workers.

The $5.5 million is part of a $35.5 million investment through the NT Government's Town Camps Futures Unit.

"Residents at these communities have participated in planning the repairs and renovations that will lead to opportunities of real jobs for locals.

As the local Member for Barkly I am honoured to be delivering this housing project to these Barkly communities and I look forward to my next visit to see local people on the tools, upgrading homes for local families.

"It has been a long haul for the people of Elliott and Marlinja but these works will transform their communities. In the meantime I will continue to advocate for more works under the Labor Government's Town Camps Futures Unit."

Quotes attributable to Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development, Gerry McCarthy.

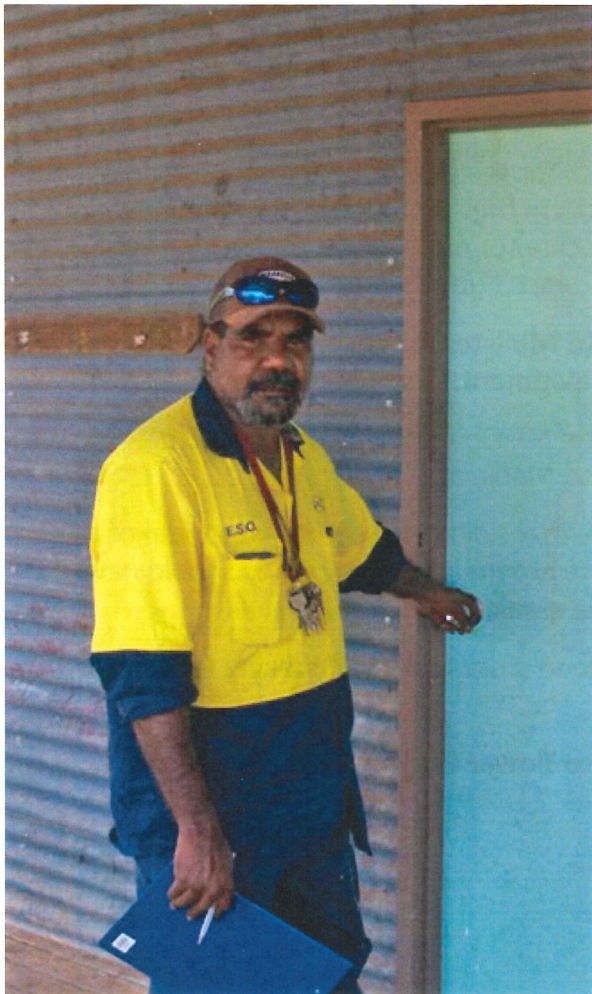"This investment by the NT Government will make a big difference to Elliott and Marlinja.

"We will be working with residents on the look and feel of the finished product. These are their homes so they should have a say in how they will be repaired.

"This will be a really good story and we're looking forward to being a part of it all."

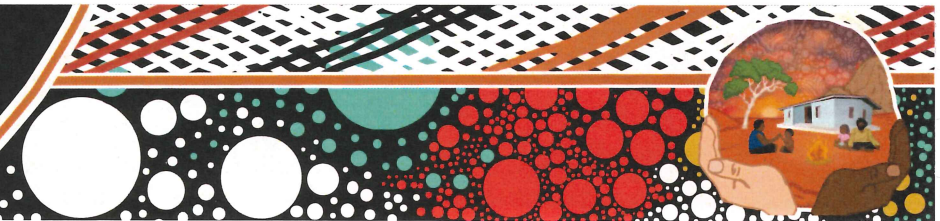**Quotes attributable to Power Projects General Manager, Andrew Harvey.**

Darren Raymond from Power Projects checks over the first house to be repaired at Elliott

Upgrades to Bagot Community

Through the Town Camps Futures Unit, the Northern Territory Government recently upgraded18 houses in the Bagot community.

Community resident and President of the Bagot Advisory Group Helen Fejo-Frith was excited to receive her keys after the upgrades. She said her house was like a palace compared to what is used to be.

"After being in the house for 20 years and then all of a sudden you come up with a brand new house, and that's what it is, I'm really over the moon about it."

As well as housing, other infrastructure improvements occurred including new bollards around parks in the community, arboreal safety clean up, repair and upgrades to all street lighting, refurbishment of the administration building, resealing of all internal roads and the removal of old water mains that contained asbestos with new water infrastructure.

Jerry Rice from Dice Australia, who carried out the housing upgrades said that homes received new electrical work, plumbing, painting, windows, fly screens and security screens and doors, using local and indigenous tradesman.

"We virtually rebuild the whole house, it's brand new" he said.

Housing upgrades will continue in the Bagot community and will be completed by June 2019.

Helen Fejo-Frith was thrilled to receive her keys from the contractor Jerry Rice

Amangal Indigenous Village, Edward McGregor

Edward is the Traditional Owner of Amangal Indigenous Village, just outside of Adelaide River. Edward said he and the community are proud of the homes that are being upgraded as part of the Town Camps Housing and Infrastructure Program.

'I think everybody is happy here with what is going on,' said Edward.

Edward recently received upgrades to his home and he appreciates the extra space he has.

The Town Camps Housing and Infrastructure Program is about investing generational change for Territorians living in town camps.
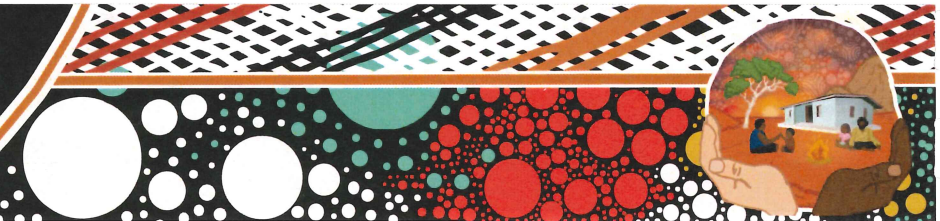

Traditional Owner Edward McGregor enjoying a cup of tea out the front of his recently refurbished home in Amangal Indigenous Village in Adelaide River

Progress work at House 9

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Amangal Indigenous Village, Jonathon

Jonathon is proud to be upgrading homes in his community of Amangal Indigenous Village, just outside of Adelaide River, as part of the Town Camps Infrastructure Works.

"I just want to show that I am proud of what I am doing here. It's a good feeling." Jonathon said.

Jonathon's employer Colin is impressed with how much he has learnt since he started on the job and as a local business is seeing the positive impact the investment into town camps is making.

Local Amangal resident Jonathan was able to gain employment working on the housing upgrades in his community

New bathroom at House 4

Amangal Indigenous Village, Kane

Kane from Amangal Indigenous Village, located just outside of Adelaide River, has received major upgrades to his home as part of the Town Camps Housing and Infrastructure Program.

Kane and his family now have a living room and secure bedrooms, improving overall comfort, safety and protection from the weather.

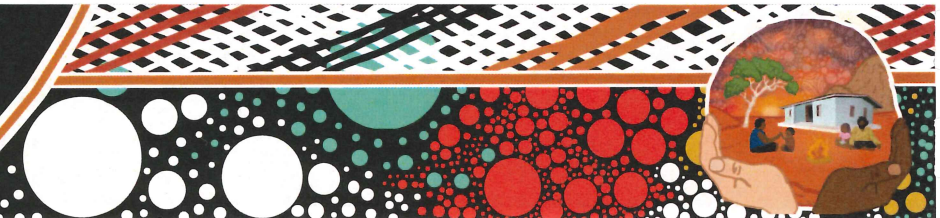'It just feels better now,' Kane said.

Local Amangal resident Kane standing out the front of his upgraded home with his two dogs

Progress at House 9

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Palmerston Indigenous Village (PIV) Selina and Carl

Selina and Carl were the first to move into the Palmerston Indigenous Village in 2002.

They are so happy to have had their three bedroom home upgraded as part of the Town Camps Housing and Infrastructure Program. The work included a new kitchen, bathroom upgrades and repair work in the bedrooms, but there is one thing that's particularly important to Selina.

"My grandchildren live here with me, and now I feel more safe and comfortable having the new fence put up around my house," Selina said.

Long term Palmerston Indigenous Village residents Selina and Carl with their grandchildren enjoying their refurbished home
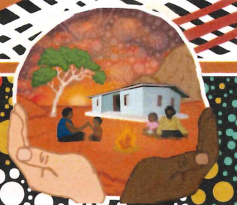
Amangal Community Home Handover

This home in the Amangal Indigenous Village outside Adelaide River has been upgraded and handed back to the community ready to use by residents. The home received upgrades such as replacing all ceilings and cornices, repairs to walls, security doors, tiling throughout, new kitchen and more. The work was completed as part of the NT Government's The Town Camps Housing and Infrastructure Program.

AFTER

BEFORE

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TOWN CAMPS INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS

Information is based on data collected to 31 March 2019.

$35.5m is committed to housing and infrastructure

The NT Government, through the Town Camps Futures Unit, is investing in generational change for Territorians living in town camps.

HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN TOWN CAMPS

$17.75 million has been spent on housing and infrastructure

100 proposed housing upgrades

69% of housing upgrades have been completed

93% of additional bedrooms and/or living spaces completed

6 unsafe/ derelict dwellings have been demolished

60% of new kitchens have been completed

880 lineal metres of water lines have been replaced

86% of new ablution facilities have been completed

EMPLOYING TERRITORIANS

48 local suppliers and contractors have been engaged

8 Aboriginal Business Enterprises have been contracted to deliver services

67 Aboriginal employees have worked on projects

25 Aboriginal Employees have been employed on or after the commencement of projects

TOWN CAMPS FUTURES UNIT www.dhcd.nt.gov.au

NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT

Scope of works for Elliott and Mulggan Town Camps and additional $10m stimulus funding is underway and only partially included in this information.

Town Camps infographic as at 31 March 2019