

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**WRITTEN QUESTION**

Mr Higgins for the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development:

**Remote Housing**

1. How many houses in how many remote communities do you expect to deliver in the next year (1 July 2019-30 June 2020)?

The number of homes will be determined through local decision making.

2. In BP3, p143 the proportion of Aboriginal people employed to deliver housing works and services is 40%. How many people does that equate to and what was the spread across the communities?

During the 2018-19 financial year, an average of 71 Aboriginal people per month were employed to deliver housing works with an average of 36 per month local to the community they were working in.

3. How did “local decision making” work in the delivery of housing in remote communities? Please provide a specific example.

The Local Decision Making approach to housing community engagement is place based, with some communities using established Housing Reference Groups and Local Authority groups, and some communities preferring community meetings, and larger communities advising the Department to use traditional or established governance groups.

Some examples of Local Decision Making include:

### **Ngukurr – Room to Breathe**

The Room to Breathe team met with Yugul Voice, which is the recognised Local Decision Making group for Ngukurr Housing Group, established under the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The Room to Breathe team worked with the group to identify their community's priority overcrowded dwellings. Yugul Voice identified the priority dwellings with a focus on identifying households that also have people with disabilities.

The group identified in excess of 50 houses that are overcrowded and have residents with a disability, which is their first priority.

### **Imangara – Room to Breathe**

The Room to Breathe team met with the community residents and the Imangara community Housing Reference Group to seek input from decision makers into the Room to Breathe program.

Previously, the HomeBuild NT team met with the extended Housing Reference Group to discuss new builds and the local decision makers advised they did not want new builds, however, they would like to meet and discuss Room to Breathe options.

Residents and the Housing Reference Group identified six dwellings that they considered a priority to receive works to improve overcrowding.

### **Galiwin'ku – HomeBuild NT**

Following community consultation, the community requested 33 new builds be delivered over an extended period of four years to enable more local participation.

4. Please advise if the delay in coming to an agreement with the Commonwealth over remote housing funding adversely affected the remote housing program and how?

The lack of support for remote housing from the CLP has left the Territory with a lack of serviced land in remote communities and delayed works that could have otherwise been completed with the Commonwealth's contribution.

5. Last year there were plans to deliver 450 new blocks of serviced land "over the new 18 to 24 months" – what is the status of that? How many serviced blocks have been turned out, at what cost and where?

450 lots are planned and 129 lots completed to date.

6. Of the new serviced blocks - how many have been built on? How many have building works underway on them?

Fifty serviced lots have had buildings constructed on them and 38 lots have buildings currently being constructed on them.

7. Why has Boundless Possible fence wrap been used around remote community housing projects?

The Department has not used the Boundless Possible fence wrap on any of its capital housing works under the \$1.1 billion Remote Housing Investment Package, 'Our Community. Our Future. Our Homes.'

8. How many projects have been wrapped and how much has it cost to wrap the projects in Boundless Possible fence wrap?

There were no projects under the Program that used Boundless Possible wrapping.

9. How much of the Remote Housing Investment Program allocation from last Budget have you spent? Please provide the figures broken down by package elements – for example, how much of the allocation for Government Employee Housing have you spent?

<b>As at 30 June 2019</b>	<b>Approved Program</b>	<b>Works scoped ready for procurement</b>	<b>Approved Cash</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
	<b>\$M</b>	<b>\$M</b>	<b>\$M</b>	<b>\$M</b>
HomeBuild NT	98.4	94.3	30.5	25.8
Room to Breathe	42.7	41.2	11.0	5.4
Government Employee Housing	19.1	15.6	4.8	3.7
Repair and Maintenance	30.0	30.0	30.0	22.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>190.2</b>	<b>181.1</b>	<b>76.3</b>	<b>57.5</b>

10. What evaluation measures have you put in place to ensure the remote housing stimulus packages have helped stimulate the local economy? When will your evaluation be completed and will you release it?

The remote housing program is not a stimulus package.

11. Last year there was \$41.4 million revoted for cyclone rectification works to remote Indigenous housing in Galiwin'ku (WQ290) damaged during cyclones Nathan (Mar 2015) and Lam (Feb 2015). The revote for the dwellings is now \$15m. How many dwellings at Galiwin'ku have been constructed and at what cost? Who were the contractors involved and how many local Indigenous people were employed? How much are the transitional accommodation pods costing?

In the 2018-19 financial year, the following packages were awarded or completed:

**Package 1:** On 28 March 2017, the contract was awarded to Probuild NT for \$5 971 291 to construct eight, four bedroom homes. This project was completed in November 2018. There were 15 local Aboriginal staff that worked at various stages of the project.

**Package 2:** On 14 September 2018, a contract was awarded to Norbuilt NT to construct one, three bedroom duplex, three, four bedroom, six, five bedroom, and five, six bedroom homes for \$10 920 638. Of these, two, five bedrooms and four, six bedroom homes are complete. There have been 13 local Aboriginal staff that have worked at various stages of the project to 30 June 2018.

**Package 3:** On 21 December 2018, a contract was awarded to the Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation to construct five, four bedroom and four, six bedroom homes for \$7 838 970. These works remain ongoing and there have been 21 local Aboriginal staff that have worked at various stages of the project to 30 June 2018.

The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics purchased the transitional accommodation pods as part of the recovery process. There are minimal ongoing costs, which are attributed to vacate.