

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Yan to the Minister for Housing and Homelands:

**Territory Wide Remote Housing**

- 1. Why has the \$3.5 million Borroloola housing subdivision been delayed? When is this project likely to commence? How many lots will be delivered in the next year?**

The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics continues to work with the Northern Land Council and native title holders to resolve native title agreements within the townships, to enable housing works to commence.

- 2. Why have 10 new houses for Arlparra been delayed? When is the project likely to commence? How many of these homes will be delivered in the coming year?**

All 10 houses have been completed and handed over to the Urapuntja Aboriginal Corporation.

- 3. Housing released details of the award of a \$51.5 million contract to Bukmak Constructions to build a minimum of 87 homes in Galiwin'ku, which are expected to be completed by mid-2026. How many of these homes were completed in the past year and how many have been completed to date? How much cash has been spent from the budget so far?**

Bukmak Constructions have completed works on 14 new homes and one Room to Breathe home to date. These were completed in the 2021-22 financial year. Construction of the next package of around 30 houses will commence in the coming months.

To date, \$9,815,573 has been spent on the contract.

- 4. Remote houses in arid areas are fitted with evaporative cooling outlets. What is the additional cost for installing these for each home?**

The installation of an evaporative cooling system in a new arid dwelling can be expected to cost between \$20,000 to \$25,000 depending on location and final dwelling configuration.

**5. Do remote homes across the Territory have solar panels installed to reduce the cost of power for families living in the homes? If not, why not? Is this planned for the future?**

Roof top solar panels are not currently part of the standard public housing amenity, though initiatives are underway to understand the technology and support required to help these customers access renewable energy.

The Northern Territory Government has developed a Remote Power System Strategy to facilitate up to 70 per cent renewable energy penetration across the Indigenous Essential Services (IES) communities portfolio.

It is likely that this will include a mix of technology, for example solar farms paired with community level battery storage, as a key methodology for bringing renewable energy option to remote tenants.

All new public housing includes installation of solar hot water services.

**6. The NT Government's Our Community, Our Future, Our Homes web page shows that there is currently a 54.6% proportion of overcrowded homes across the Territory, with an average of 1.59 occupants per bedroom in our public housing. Given the current rate of housing supply, can you estimate how long it may take to turn this around and what KPIs are you working on per annum?**

The period of time to completely eliminate overcrowding is dependent on many factors, including:

- available serviced land and essential services;
- costs of construction and the supply chain; and
- population movements within communities.