



**Our Community.
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Tiwi Land Council Regional Work Plan HHIP 2024-2027

Homelands Housing and
Infrastructure Program



Contents

Regional Work Plan Overview

3

1. Homelands Housing and Infrastructure Program	3
2. Joint Steering Committee	3
3. 2024-2027 Program Funding Allocation	3
4. Development Process	4
5. Stakeholders	6
5.1 Tiwi Land Council (TLC)	6
5.2 Aboriginal Housing NT (AHNT)	7
5.3 Regional Stakeholders	7
6. Investment Principles	8
7. Priority Projects 2024-2027	9



Regional Work Plan Overview

1. Homelands Housing and Infrastructure Program

On the back of the success of the delivery of the 2022-2024 “Restoring funding for Northern Territory Homelands” Federal Funding Agreement (FFA), the Northern Territory Government and Australian Government agreed to a further investment of \$120 million over 3 years to continue urgent upgrades across Northern Territory Homelands through the Homelands Housing and Infrastructure Program (HHIP). The 3-year Homelands agreement provides funding for critical repairs, maintenance, and infrastructure upgrades in homelands.

The HHIP is managed through the Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development (DHLGCD), however decisions regarding planning, project selection and implementation are overseen by the Joint Steering Committee (JSC), which includes the following members:

- Central Land Council (CLC)
- Tiwi Land Council (TLC)
- Anindilyakwa Land Council (ALC)
- Northern Land Council (NLC)
- Aboriginal Housing NT (AHNT)
- Australian Government (AG)
- Northern Territory Government (NTG)

2. Joint Steering Committee

The JSC has agreed that Regional Work Plans will be developed by the Northern Territory Government in partnership with land councils and AHNT. Regional Work Plans will set out key regional priorities regarding housing and infrastructure needs. Plans will guide the allocation of \$120 million over the next 3 years (2024-2027).

The JSC has endorsed the following investment principles that guided project selection in 2023-24:

- Homelands with a population over 50 persons (including the clustering of smaller connected homelands);

- Housing and infrastructure that is in average/poor condition and requires investment beyond regular repairs and maintenance;
- Homelands with existing access to education, and other services; and
- Homelands within proximity of a regional community – in recognition that homelands can reduce pressure on housing and other resources.

3. 2024-2027 Program Funding Allocation

The following breakdown outlines the annual expenditure for works to be delivered to Northern Territory Homelands over the 2024-27 program:

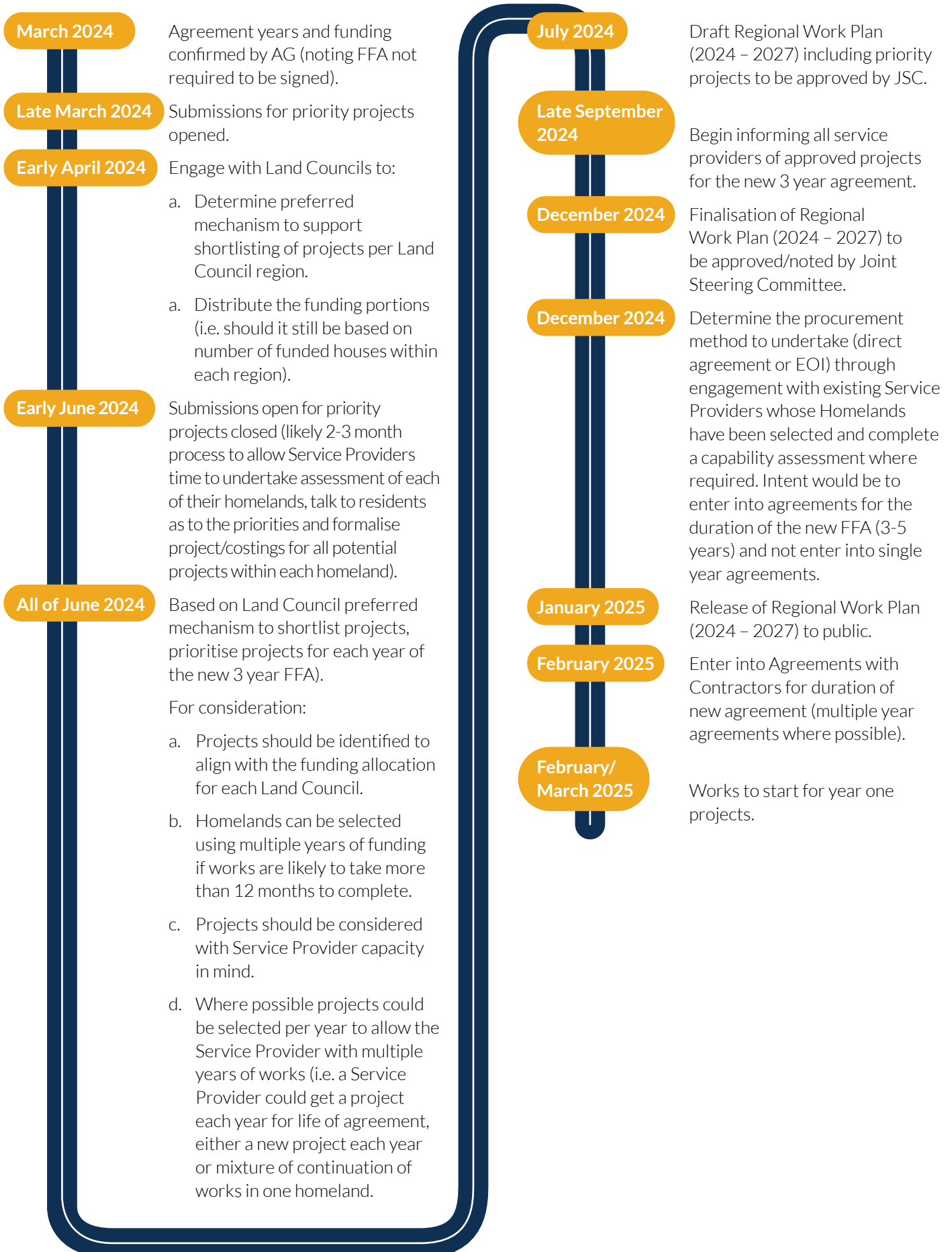
- \$36.0 million targeted investment into selected homelands, distributed among the four Northern Territory Land Council regions as follows:

Region	Portion of \$40M	Funding
Northern Land Council	54%	\$19.5M
Central Land Council	43%	\$15.0M
Anindilyakwa Land Council	3%	\$1.1M
Tiwi Land Council	1%	\$0.4M

- \$2.0 million dedicated to NT Wide initiatives aimed at improving water, power, and sanitation across all funded homelands; and
- \$2.0 million (5%) allocated for program administration costs.

4. Development Process

Timeline for the development of regional work plans is set out below:



Whilst the process for each Regional Work Plan has been tailored to suit local government structures, JSC members have generally performed the following roles:

Land Councils:

- Develop principles to guide investment decisions; and
- Engage with Traditional Owners, Councillors and homeland service providers to determine priority projects.

AHNT:

- Engage with homeland service providers to determine key housing and infrastructure issues and priorities; and
- Identify opportunities for increase Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to deliver works to their homelands.

Northern Territory Government:

- Provide background information regarding housing and infrastructure on homelands, including any capital upgrades completed or underway; and
- Assist in the coordination of the Regional Work Plans.



Tiwi Land Council – Regional Work Plan 2024-2027

5. Stakeholders

5.1 Tiwi Land Council (TLC)

The Tiwi Islands are located approximately 80 kilometres north of Darwin in the Arafura Sea. They consist of two large, inhabited islands – Melville and Bathurst – and numerous smaller uninhabited islands. There has been an unbroken history of occupation and ownership of the Tiwi Islands by Tiwi people, and the population of just over 3000 is more than 90 per cent Tiwi. The Tiwi possess a distinct culture and language.

The Tiwi Land Council (TLC) was established in 1978, a significant milestone for Tiwi people and a culmination of years of work seeking recognition as the custodians of the Tiwi Islands and the keepers of Tiwi cultural identity.

TLC is a corporate commonwealth entity under the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 ('ALRA'). It is responsible for a number of key functions under the ALRA, but most relevantly, to ensure that activities on the Tiwi Islands are undertaken only after proper consultation with the relevant Tiwi clan group(s) and with the consent of the traditional Aboriginal owners of that land.

Currently, the Council is made up of 40 members (including the Trustees of the Tiwi Aboriginal Land Trust). The 40 members are comprised of four council members plus one Trustee from each of the eight land-owning groups of the Tiwi Islands.

Homelands remain a critical advocacy priority for the TLC. There are only seven funded homelands on Bathurst and Melville Islands, and not all land-owning groups have the opportunity to live on their country. Tiwi homelands have only two to four houses. Most dwellings are decades old and in need of significant upgrades. While on-going investment in repairs and maintenance are essential, the TLC continues to advocate for additional houses on Tiwi homelands, to increase opportunities for Tiwi people to live on their country and reduce overcrowding in the three larger communities.

5.2 Aboriginal Housing NT (AHNT)

Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory (AHNT) is the incorporated peak body for the Northern Territory Aboriginal Community Controlled Housing Sector – including homeland and town camp service providers. AHNT represents a membership of 19 Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, with the 4 land councils associate members. AHNT advocates strongly for the returned control of housing design, development, and management to the Aboriginal community-controlled sector, and for increased Aboriginal decision-making across the system.

AHNT works closely with the Northern Territory and Australian governments, land councils, and other key partners to help build capacity and provide advocacy for the sector who currently provide housing and housing-related services to around 10,000 Aboriginal Territorians, living around 2,426 dwellings, across 382 homelands, and 43 town camps and community living areas across the Northern Territory.

5.2 Regional Stakeholders

Anindilyakwa Regional Stakeholders	Involvement
Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory (AHNT)	JSC Member
Tiwi Land Council (TLC)	JSC Member
Tiwi Islands Regional Council (TIRC)	Existing Homelands Service Provider
Bathurst Island Housing Association (BIHA)	Housing maintenance contractor
Office of Township Leasing (OTL)	Holder of township lease over Ranku (noting an intent to transition Ranku to community status)



6. Investment Principles

Project work plans have been prepared for each homeland by TIRC, together with advice from BIHA, to inform HHIP investment. The TLC has shared these project work plans with Trustees for each of the relevant land-owning groups. Those Trustees have spoken with homelands residents to get further feedback in relation to project work plans. The TLC Executive – which includes all Trustees – has then discussed the merits of investment in each of the homelands and provided guidance in relation to this regional work plan.

Through these discussions, a set of principles has emerged to guide investment in Tiwi homelands:

- Address the **highest need**
- Achieve **equitable allocation** – where possible – across the homelands and land-owning groups

- Prioritise investment in **essential, shared infrastructure** that:
 - » Aligns with the nine healthy living practices
 - » Can enable year-round occupancy in multiple houses
- Prioritise works that **cannot be funded through other sources**

A consistent theme in each of the above discussions was that there is insufficient planned investment – through HHIP or other funding sources – in Tiwi homelands. The Full Council and Executive have each resolved that the TLC work closely with TIRC and NTG to identify other potential sources of funding that may be used to secure additional investment in Tiwi homelands, as well as improving TIRC’s process for reporting and addressing day-to-day maintenance needs across the homelands, which can reduce the need for large scale repairs and replacement.



7. Priority Projects 2024-2027

Homelands	Funds Required
Condor Point (as per project plan)	\$390,000
Putjamirra (Pitirimirra) (<i>prioritising water tank above other items in the project plan, due to budget constraints</i>)	\$285,000
Taracumbi (as per project plan)	\$525,000
Total	\$1,200,000









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