



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

Homelands Housing and
Infrastructure Program



Australian Government



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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), on 17 July 2024, 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 of houses 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
- Northern Territory Government

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 permanently occupied 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 2023-2024:

- 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.

2.1 Joint Steering Committee Investment Principles

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- 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;
- Homelands within proximity of a regional community – in recognition that homelands can reduce pressure on housing and other resources; and
- Works relating to a response of key audit findings.

3. 2024-2027 Program Funding Allocation

The following breakdown outlines the annual expenditure for works to be delivered to Northern Territory Homelands over the 2024-2027 program:

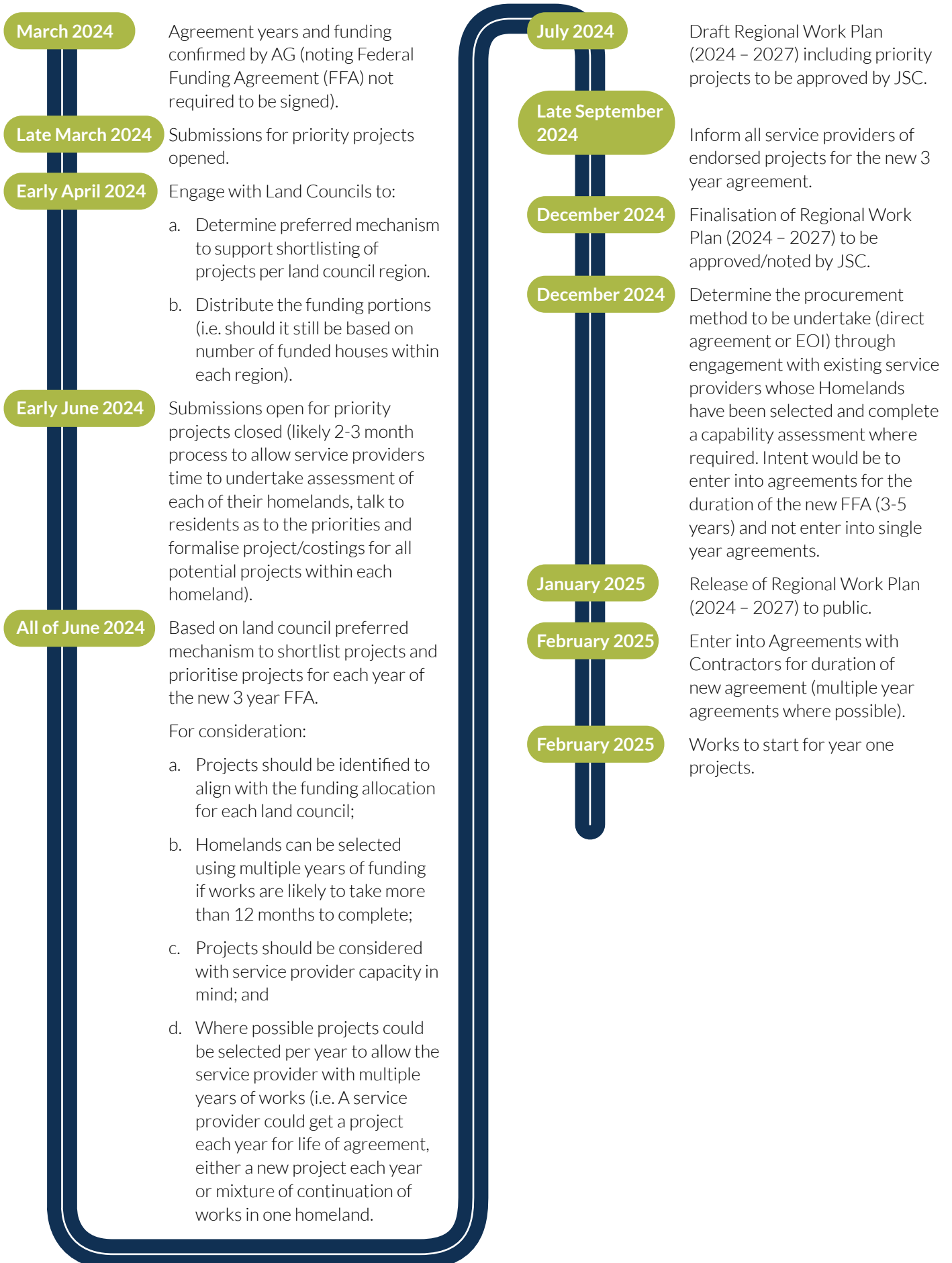
- \$36.0 million targeted investment into selected homelands, distributed among the four Northern Territory Land Council regions as follows:

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 investment principles to guide investment decisions that align with JSC investment principles; 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 homeland.

Northern Territory Government:

- Provide background information regarding housing and infrastructure on homelands, including any capital upgrades completed or underway;
- Assist in the coordination of the Regional Work Plans;
- Ensure compliance with Joint Steering Committee investment principles;
- Responsible for project managing housing and infrastructure projects in homelands to ensure effective planning and execution;
- Prioritises value for money by maximising the impact of funding and resources;
- Deliverables to be met through structured project oversight, communication consultation and adherence to funding agreements.



Northern Land Council – Regional Work Plan 2024-2027

5. Stakeholders

5.1 Northern Land Council (NLC)

The Northern Land Council (NLC) represents constituents across their region. The NLC have established their own additional principles and governance arrangements to determine how HHIP projects will be prioritised across each region.

The NLC was established in 1973. Following the enactment of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth), the NLC became an independent statutory authority responsible for assisting Aboriginal people in the northern region of the NT to acquire and manage their traditional lands and seas.

The Aboriginal Land Rights Act combines concepts of traditional Aboriginal law and Australian property law and sets out the functions and responsibilities of the Land Councils. A key function of the NLC under the Act is to express the wishes and protect the interests of Aboriginal people throughout its region.

The NLC is also a Native Title Representative Body under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) (Native Title Act).

The NLC represents more than 51,000 Aboriginal people. Within its jurisdiction, it assists Traditional Owners by providing services in its key output areas of land, sea and water management; land acquisition; minerals and petroleum; community development; Aboriginal land trust administration; native title services; advocacy; information and policy advice.

The NLC's vision is for a Territory in which the rights and responsibilities of every Traditional Owner are recognised and in which Aboriginal people benefit economically, socially, and culturally from the secure possession of their lands, seas, waters, and intellectual property. Our mission is to ensure Aboriginal people in the NLC's region acquire and manage their traditional lands, seas, and waters, through strong leadership, advocacy, and management.

As of July 2023, there are 204 homelands eligible for funding under the NT Government's Homelands Services Program in the NLC region. Most dwellings on homelands and decades are old, as is the supporting infrastructure.

5.2 Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory

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.



5.3 Regional Stakeholders

Northern Land Council Regional Stakeholders	Involvement
Northern Land Council Regional Stakeholders	Involvement
Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory (AHNT)	JSC Member
Northern Land Council	JSC Member
AUS Projects NT Pty Ltd	Existing Homelands Service Provider
Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation	Existing Homelands Service Provider
Barkly Plumbing Services	Interim Homelands Service Provider
Deltareef Pty Ltd	Existing Homelands Service Provider
Demed Aboriginal Corporation	Existing Homelands Service Provider
Dice (AUST)	Existing Homelands Service Provider
Dinybulu Regional Services Pty Ltd	Existing Homelands Service Provider
Jawoyn Association	Existing Homelands Service Provider
Kalano Community Association Inc	Existing Homelands Service Provider
Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation	Existing Homelands Service Provider
Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Indigenous Corporation	Existing Homelands Service Provider
Milingimbi and Outstations Progress Resources Aboriginal Corporation	Existing Homelands Service Provider
Murin Association Inc	Existing Homelands Service Provider
Ngaliwurru-Wuli Aboriginal Corporation	Existing Homelands Service Provider
Numbulwar Homelands Council Association Inc	Existing Homelands Service Provider
Roper Gulf Regional Council	Existing Homelands Service Provider
Victoria Daly Regional Council	Existing Homelands Service Provider
Warddeken Land Management	Existing Homelands Service Provider
Warnbi Aboriginal Corporation – Kakadu	Existing Homelands Service Provider
West Daly Regional Council	Existing Homelands Service Provider
Yilli Rreung Housing Aboriginal Corporation	Existing Homelands Service Provider

6. Investment Principles

The NLC's constituency is a representation of the Traditional Owners within its jurisdiction. There are seven regions within the NLC's jurisdictions: Darwin/Daly/Wagait; West Arnhem; East Arnhem; Katherine; Victoria River District (VRD); South East Arnhem; and Borroloola/Barkly.

At the Executive Council Meeting held in September 2024, the NLC Executive Council resolved to support the establishment of a Housing and Homelands Committee for consultation about issues affecting community housing and homelands. Initially tasked with making recommendations for allocation of Homelands Housing and Infrastructure Program (HHIP) funding in the NLC region. The Committee are represented by 2 members per NLC region (14) members. Each member is nominated via consensus vote within each of the 7 NLC regions. With each member having a vested interest in and connection to housing and homelands.

There are a total number of 789 funded dwellings across the NLC regions. At the first meeting of the Committee, in November 2024, it was agreed to allocate the funds across the seven regions based on a percentage of funded dwellings in each. Indicative percentage of funds per region are:

Region	Funded Dwellings	Round 2 Funding Split
East Arnhem	225	\$15,548,000
West Arnhem	150	\$12,164,000
Darwin Daly Wagait	156	\$10,443,000
Borroloola Barkly	89	\$6,690,000
South East Arnhem	77	\$5,000,000
Victoria River District	71	\$5,810,000
Katherine	21	\$2,845,000
Total	789	\$58,500,000

The Committee were provided with project proposals submitted to the NT Government by Homeland Service Providers highlighting Priority Projects based on homeland need and assessed against the '9 Healthy Living Practices'.

The Committee based decision making on the Joint Steering Committee Investment Principles, the HHIP rules and additional NLC principles.

Additional NLC principles are:

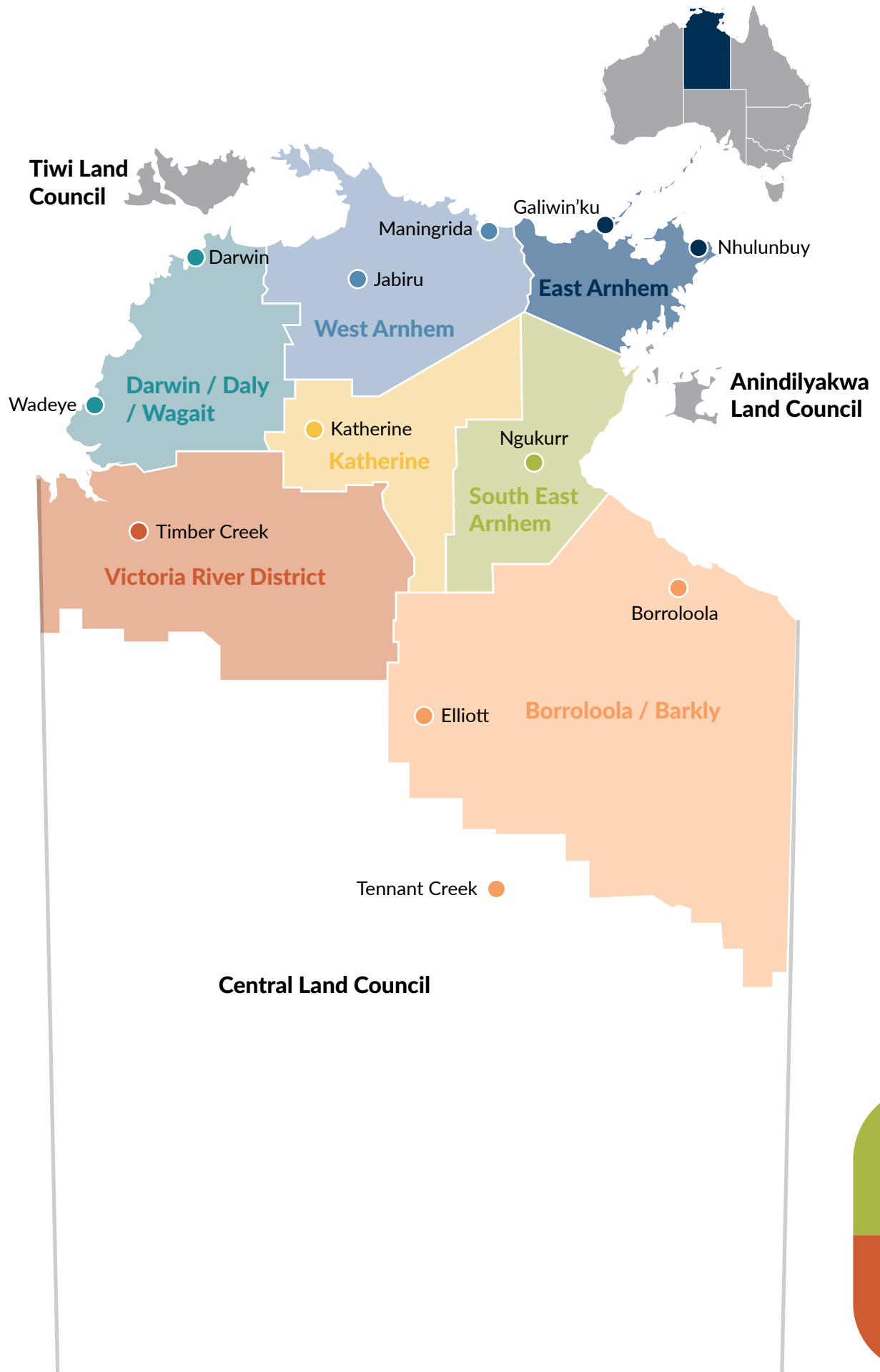
- Works are not to be covered by any other funding agreements or project; and
- Funds are to be distributed across the seven NLC regions directly to Service Providers who have the capability and capacity to undertake the work. The regional distribution will be based on the number of serviced homelands in each region.

To assist with decision making, Committee members were provided with:

- Information about the funding available, timelines for decision-making and final decision-making authority;
- Commonwealth and NT Government guidelines in relation to the expenditure, including that the investment is for funded homelands only, for substantial work to fix housing and essential infrastructure, and not for new or replacement houses;
- Funding available for distribution over the next three years against required need found in independent audit;
- Access to additional technical information or background where required;
- Options to consider for distribution of funds;
- Sufficient time to make their decisions. A second meeting of the Committee came together in February 2025 to make final recommendations to the NTG.



NLC Regions and Regional Offices



7. Priority Projects 2024 - 2027

East Arnhem

Homelands	Funds Required
Dhambala, Galawarra and Ngayawilli	\$3.040M
Galawdjipin	\$500,000
Yathalamarra	\$3.080M
Garrthalala	\$5.837M
Baniyala	\$3.091M

West Arnhem

Homelands	Funds Required
Yikarrakkal, Kurrurldul, Milmilngkan, Mankorlod and Kolorbidahdah	\$6.067M
Malnjangarnak	\$1.474M
Manmoyi and Mamadawerre	\$3.318M
Springpeak	\$1.305M

Darwin Daly Wagait

Homelands	Funds Required
Papangala	\$350,000
Uminyuluk	\$450,000
Pandayal	\$1.135M
Walangurraminy	\$2.005M
Five Mile	\$1.109M
Wudikulpidiya	\$5.394M



Borroloola Barkly

Homelands	Funds Required
Wundigalla	\$550,000
Ngurrara (including Kurntapurra)	\$1.420M
Mabunji Cluster: Wumayalinia, Sandridge, Jungalina, Wurlbu, Bauhinia Downs, Southwest Island, West Island, Kangaroo Island, Wada Wadalla, Milibunthurra & Babungi	\$3.010M
Corella Creek	\$1.710M

South East Arnhem

Homelands	Funds Required
Badawarrka, Barrapunta, Costello, Mole Hill, Mount Catt, Nalawan, Baghetti, Kewulyi	\$5.000M

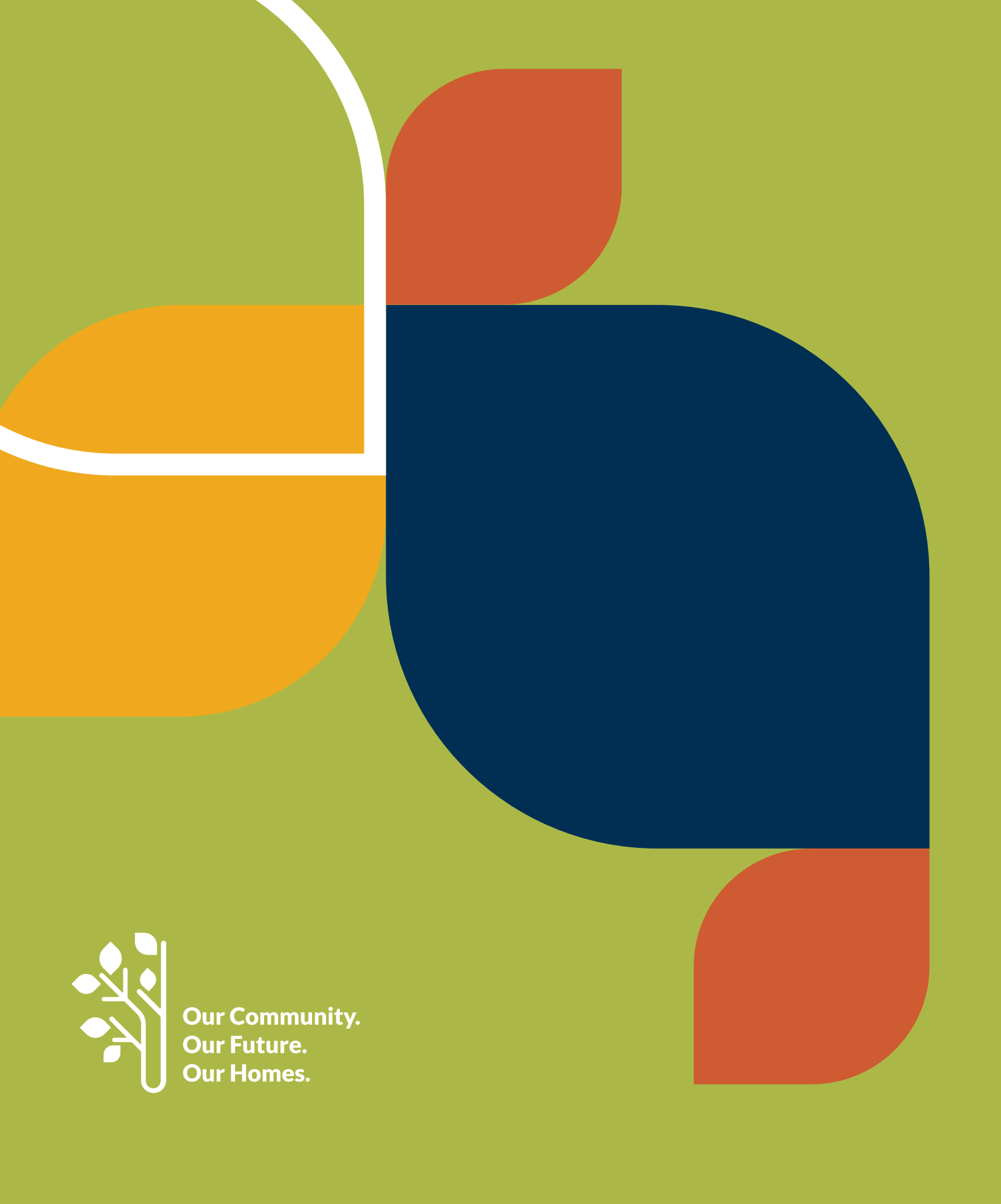
Victoria River District

Homelands	Funds Required
Lingara	\$2.170M
Murranji	\$700,000
Gilwi	\$2.940M

Katherine

Homelands	Funds Required
Barnjarn, Jodetluk, Banatjarl, Djarrung and Werenbun	\$2.845M





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