LANDMARK LEASE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH JULALIKARI

The Northern Territory Government and Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation have reached a landmark lease agreement that will allow a $30 million housing and infrastructure upgrade program to be delivered in Tennant Creek.

Housing Minister Rob Knight said the agreement, the first of its kind in the Northern Territory, will see the NT Government sublease eight community living areas (town camps) from Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation for 60 years.

“With this landmark agreement, Julalikari has ensured $30 million of work will be carried out to improve housing conditions in the community living areas, benefiting those who live there and the whole Tennant Creek community,” Mr Knight said.

“Improving Indigenous housing conditions is absolutely vital to closing the gap on Indigenous disadvantage.

“I commend Pat Brahim and Julalikari for their vision and leadership in reaching this decision, a decision that will benefit generations to come.”

Mr Knight said the $30 million program will be one of the first packages to be delivered through the joint Australian and Northern Territory Government $647 million Strategic Indigenous Housing Infrastructure Program (SIHIP).

The Tennant Creek program will focus on upgrades to houses, and improvements to infrastructure and essential services within the community living areas. Julalikari will have a central role providing input into the design of the upgrade works.

“A key element of the SIHIP structure is its requirement for contractors to provide job and training opportunities for local Indigenous Territorians,” said Mr Knight.

“ar that end, a job and workforce development plan is also being prepared for the program, and Julalikari has been contracted to provide the interim training and employment development officer.

“The Northern Territory Government is committed to addressing housing needs in communities in ways which support healthy outcomes for families and children.”

Civil works for the program are expected to start next month.

Media contact: Katie Woolf 0420 972 505