Minister for Public and Affordable Housing Chris Burns and Member for Arafura Marion Scrymgour today officially opened the first stage of a new subdivision in Maningrida.

A total of 110 new houses, 16 rebuilds and 79 refurbishments will be delivered in Maningrida by the Australian and Territory governments as part of the $1.7 billion National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing.

Today 19 families were presented with house keys for their new homes and Dr Burns said the opening is a very special occasion.

“A new subdivision or suburb is a significant development for Maningrida and the new and upgraded housing will help make major improvements to the lives of many local residents,” Dr Burns said.

“New road works and sewerage, landscaping and fencing works have been completed in the first stage of the subdivision and works for second stage are well underway with completion by December.”

The 2010-11 wet season and Cyclone Carlos caused significant delays to subdivision works, with Maningrida recording more than three times the average February rainfall.

Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Jenny Macklin said $64 million is being spent on improving housing and living conditions in Maningrida.

“It is very pleasing to see strong levels of local employment, with in excess of 30 per cent local employment in the program, as well as community input through the Bawinanga Aboriginal Council and Maningrida Progress Association,” Minister Macklin said.
Minister for Indigenous Health Warren Snowdon says adequate housing is an important step to delivering improved health outcomes for Aboriginal locals.

"The new homes in Maningrida are another step to delivering better health outcomes for aboriginal communities across the Territory."

“The effort between the Australian and Territory Governments, Territory Alliance and the Maningrida Community, particularly the Housing Reference Group, Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation and the Maningrida Progress Association is driving positive outcomes for the community,” he said.

To date 50 new houses have been completed and 55 are underway in Maningrida. Construction of an additional five houses will commence soon. A further 35 refurbishments and seven rebuilds have also been completed in the community.

At 31st August 2011, the National Partnership has delivered 345 new houses with 232 houses underway across the Northern Territory. Another 1709 refurbishments and rebuilds are complete and 47 are underway.

Minister Burns said he also wanted to especially thank members of the Maningrida Housing Reference Group, who cut the ribbon at today’s opening, for their support and assistance in relocating community members to their new homes.

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