Improving housing and community infrastructure in Mutitjulu

The Australian and Northern Territory governments have today announced a package of investment to significantly improve outcomes for the local Anangu people in Mutitjulu.

Commonwealth Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Nigel Scullion, and Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, Adam Giles, said today the quality of housing in the community would be greatly enhanced through a $10 million investment to build new, and improve existing, houses.

The governments have also committed $2 million to develop a business centre in the community, $2 million to improve mobile phone coverage and $350,000 to build a new bakery in the community store.

In addition, the Mutitjulu Community Aboriginal Corporation will receive $500,000 to install lighting and toilets at the Mutitjulu Oval and $250,000 to improve governance capacity in the organisation.

The Australian Government has also committed to investing in adult education in Mutitjulu and is working with the community on an appropriate model to deliver better education and training to the community.

The governments agreed to the investment in housing as part of negotiations relating to a long-term sublease over Mutitjulu that, if finalised, will improve local land administration, including through the transferability of leases that support commercial investment and certainty of land use.

Minister Scullion said it was a great outcome for Mutitjulu that would significantly improve the quality of local housing and encourage commercial enterprise.

“I am delighted to see investment in housing being allocated to a community with long-term tradeable tenure that will support a mix of housing types including home ownership while also addressing the overcrowding that has existed for far too long,” Minister Scullion said.
“I am also pleased that the Australian and Northern Territory governments have been able to work in partnership to provide $2 million to support the development of a business centre in the community.”

Chief Minister Giles welcomed the partnership approach.

“The Northern Territory Government is working with Aboriginal people across the NT to support their economic, social and cultural development aspirations,” Mr Giles said.

“Housing investment is critical to this approach, and so too is our significant investment in power, water, roads, health centres, education facilities and telecommunications.”

Chief Minister Giles said the Northern Territory was also investing $2 million through a partnership with Telstra to provide the 3G mobile network and ADSL2+Broadband Network, and that $350,000 had been allocated for a new bakery in the community store as part of a broader partnership between the Commonwealth and NT governments to build 21 bakeries in remote communities across the Territory.

“This is a significant outcome for the community and recognition from my Government of the service delivery needs of local residents,” Chief Minister Giles said.

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