The Minister for Housing John Ah Kit said today he was delighted with progress on the construction of the Fannie Bay Seniors Village at the former Kurringal Complex.

“Tony and John Tomazos from Gratis Pty Ltd; their crew and the sub-contractors are doing a fantastic job—despite the delays due to the rain last month—and I am told they are definitely on target to complete the project by Christmas.

“You know you drive past a building site every second day without realizing how much work is going on behind the fence,” said Mr Ah Kit. “It’s a credit to all the workers there how well the job is going.”

“The current contract—$5.8 million—will see the completion of an important election commitment by the Martin Labor Government.

“At any one time, I understand there are 40 workers on site, with many more at workshops throughout Darwin supplying material and prefabricated work.

“The development of this low income seniors housing is part of our strategy of enabling people to remain and lead independent lives here in the Territory.”

The Fannie Bay Seniors Village involved the demolition of Blocks 3, 5 and 7 and the caretaker’s residence, the removal of trees and the realignment of major services—the work on which was completed in May. The design and documentation was completed by Jackman Gooden Architects in March. The total project will be completed at a cost of $7.7 million.

All tenants have been relocated, with preference for dwelling allocation at Fannie Bay Seniors afforded to current eligible Kurringal tenants.

The Fannie Bay Seniors Village will provide 40x2 bedroom ground level units and a small meeting hall. Blocks 4, 6 and 8 of Kurringal will provide general purpose housing for a period of eight to ten years.