The Northern Territory Government will continue to drive improvements in Alice Springs Town Camps with the announcement today by Minister for Housing Elliot McAdam that a steering committee has been formed to implement recommendations from the Alice Springs Town Camps Taskforce Report.

Mr McAdam said former senior public servant Mr Barry Chambers has been appointed to chair the Implementation Steering Committee.

“Mr Chambers has a wealth of experience in driving projects and getting results, most recently coordinating the recovery efforts for the Katherine floods earlier this year,” Mr McAdam said.

“His role will be to work with the Implementation Steering Committee to drive the key recommendations of the report with the goal of improving infrastructure and services in town camps and making them better places to live.”

Mr McAdam said the membership of the Town Camps Implementation Steering Committee will also include representatives from:

- The Alice Springs Town Council;
- Tangentyere Council;
- The Australian Government’s Indigenous Coordination Centre;
- Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation;
- Department of the Chief Minister; and
- Department of Local Government and Housing.

“The NT Government’s focus is to improve conditions in town camps and help alleviate overcrowding by providing purpose-built, managed, short-term accommodation facilities for visitors to town,” Mr McAdam said.

“In contrast, the Opposition’s only idea has been to urge the Federal Government to use their demountables to set up a fringe camp on the far southern outskirts of Alice Springs.

“How setting up a Central Australian Soweto will make Alice Springs a better place to live is beyond me.”

Mr McAdam said he has also written to Alice Springs business’ and community groups to explain the Northern Territory Government’s response to the Town Camps Task Force Report and the Australian Government’s transportable short-term accommodation model.

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