The Country Liberals acknowledge the importance of people’s cultural connections, both socially and economically, particularly in the area of housing.

Homelands/Outstations
There are approximately 2400 dwellings classified as occupied homelands/outstations in the Northern Territory which house approximately 10,000 Territorians.

For many people the dwellings are on their country and they have a strong cultural connection to the land and do not want to leave.

The Problem
The current policies of Territory Labor are forcing people off their country, from their homelands and into bigger Aboriginal communities or Territory towns.

This approach is economically, social and culturally irresponsible.

If everyone moves into towns there is greater pressure placed on the public housing system.

This forces people to:
» Live in overcrowded conditions
» Become homeless or live rough
» Abuse alcohol, which can lead to violence and involvement with police

The Solution
We support the Federal Government initiative to invest in homelands services and we support the Aboriginal Benefits Account apparent desire to set aside funds for additional housing, so long as that is the will of the ABA board.

What people don’t know is that Territory Housing properties are substantially funded for repairs and maintenance. We believe homelands/outstations should be similarly funded because if they’re not, 2400 dwellings will deteriorate so badly that everyone will be forced off their land and into towns.
Our Homelands Policy

1. That all future Indigenous housing works that fall under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing be administered through local organisations or councils facilitated by Territory Housing and Department of Construction and Infrastructure rather than alliance contracting models.

2. That we do not differentiate between impoverished, 1-2-3+ bedroom dwellings for funding and allocate $5200 per occupied dwelling which is the principal place of residence and adheres to means testing guidelines. All children will be required to go to school and residents of working age must participate in the economy.

3. That part of the funding negotiations, also stipulate that agencies must develop an asset management plan which will include setting aside funds for future programmed upgrade and replacement works. These plans will be periodically audited by Territory Housing to ensure compliance and financial accountability.

4. Management fees for each Homeland resource agency will be reviewed after the election to determine the appropriateness of the levels of funding to administer such services.

5. As part of the Country Liberals greater regional focus we will support a three stream education model. These streams include boarding schools in larger centres, mainstream schools and a greater role for School of the Air in homelands/outstations.

This is a summary document only, a comprehensive version will be released soon. Please either subscribe to our e-News or check in regularly on our website for details of the Policy Launch.

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