




Speech By
David Kempton

MEMBER FOR COOK

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Napranum, Housing

 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (11.12 am): Last week the Minister for Housing, Tim Mander, and I visited the Napranum community to inspect the progress of the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing. Whilst we were there the minister gave an impromptu and very inspirational speech to a group of local men.

NPARIH commenced in 2009 and is scheduled to provide 1,141 new houses to remote Indigenous communities over 10 years. In addition, the program will see 1,200 existing dwellings refurbished. In recent months contracts have been let for over 290 module dwellings, the first of which are now being delivered into remote communities.

The community of Napranum near Weipa is one community to benefit from this program with 15 new houses on track to be in place by 30 June this year. In order to provide local employment and training opportunities, Napranum Shire Council has been given the opportunity to build an additional five houses on top of the 15 already scheduled for construction. These houses are being built by local community members who are actually achieving capacity to become builders and ultimately take over the construction of houses within the community.

At the moment, 65 per cent of the work on these properties is being done by local Indigenous workers. The minister and I were happy to see work progressing very well. Once complete, these properties will bring the number of new dwellings delivered by NPARIH in Napranum to 48. In addition, 69 existing dwellings have been refurbished under the program. Provided the council successfully delivers the five houses it is currently building—and every indication is that they will—the minister has agreed to their request to deliver the entire balance of the NPARIH program via their council construction team.

Napranum Shire Council is also keen to advance homeownership within its community and is currently in the process of finalising its proposed selling prices for existing housing. With regard to homeownership, the minister reports that Palm Island is the first Indigenous community to agree on initial valuations which will apply to the sale of existing houses. The minister has written to the mayor of Palm Island agreeing to the proposed valuations which will allow applications for homeownership by Palm Island residents to start to be assessed. This is a first in Queensland's history.

The Newman government is committed to delivering for Indigenous Queenslanders. The department, in partnership with the Commonwealth and perhaps more importantly in partnership with local councils, is doing a great job of putting roofs over the heads of those people who live in my electorate.