

CONSULTATION

About the future of the NORTHERN TERRITORY EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The Australian Government understands that changes are needed to make the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER) better for Aboriginal people.



Australian Government Business Managers, John Ramsay and Suzanne Stratton will be arranging meetings to talk with the community and to listen to your views about the NTER. They are also happy to meet with a family group, a group of friends or individuals to talk about the NTER.

The Australian Government wants to work closely with Aboriginal people and listen to what you have to say about NTER measures including:

Income Management	Alcohol Restrictions
Pornography Restrictions	Community Stores Licencing
5 Year Leases	Controls on Publicly Funded Computers
Law Enforcement Measures	Business Management Powers

For more information, please call
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Circulating throughout Melville and Bathurst Islands which include the Communities of Pirlangimpi, Milikapiti, Nguui & Ranku

Articles For The Tiwi Times

If you have any articles which you would like to go into the July Tiwi Times please email them to us at tiwitimes@titeb.com

We try our hardest to get your Tiwi Times out by the end of each month and it would be appreciated if you could have your articles to us by the 22nd July.



TIWI TIMES

Tiwi Islands Training and Employment Board

Death of Brother John Pye

The Northern Territory's longest-serving missionary, Brother John Pye, died in Darwin on Friday night (29 May), aged 102.



Darwin's Bishop Eugene Hurley paid tribute to Brother John as an "icon of the Territory" who had won love and respect from Aboriginal people for his work on the Tiwi Islands, Port Keats (Wadeye) and Daly River (Naiyu).

"He was a great religious brother who committed his life to serving other people," Bishop Hurley said.

Brother John was born in the Riverina of New South Wales in 1906. He qualified as a diesel engineer but at the age of 20 joined the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and trained in Sydney. He then worked as a teacher and athletics coach at Downlands College in Toowoomba for 10 years before his appointment to the Northern Territory Missions in 1941.

He spent most of the war years at Wadeye (Port Keats) and was appointed to the Tiwi Islands in 1944 where he served for the next 16 years at the Bathurst Island and Garden Point Missions, with a one year break in 1950 as supervisor of the Channel Island Leper Station.

In 1960 he was appointed to the Daly River Mission where he worked as mechanic, supply truck driver in charge of the schoolboys' boarding house and as football coach. He returned to Port Keats in 1970 and wrote his first book, a history of Port Keats, in 1972.

In 1975, aged nearly 70, he returned to the Tiwi Islands, his favorite posting. He was called *Punderdelime* by the Tiwi people, meaning 'crocodile's tail'.

In his retirement, Brother John continued his historic research and wrote short books on the missionaries' work at Daly River, Wadeye, and Santa Teresa.

Brother John Pye was awarded an OAM in 1986 for his work with Aboriginal people.

He is credited with introducing football to the Tiwi Islands, where he was known as the 'Father of Football'. He was proud to see the Tiwi Bombers enter the NTFL last year in Darwin.

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Quote of the Month

Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see the shadow.

Helen Keller (1880 - 1968)



Briefing Note on Tiwi Islands (SIHIP) Package

Agreement with the Government was reached at the end of May, which means work can now start on the Tiwi Islands. This includes a nine-month refurbishment program for Milikapiti and Pirlangimpi and 18-month program for Wurrumiyanga.

Initially, this will involve advertising for Expressions of Interest from suppliers to work with Territory Alliance, determining a schedule for the work, ordering and transporting materials and engaging people to work with us.

Work will continue in Pirlangimpi and Milikapiti and start in Wurrumiyanga in early July after the camp is established.

Early works

Some early works worth about \$2.3 million began in Pirlangimpi and Wurrumiyanga during negotiation of the final contract. Work started in Pirlangimpi on 7 April and Milikapiti on 20 April cleaning seven vacant houses prior to asbestos removal and refurbishment. These houses, most of which had been deemed 'beyond economic repair' will be used as transitional accommodation for people whose houses are being fixed and then handed back to Territory Housing as additional housing stock for the community when Territory Alliance finishes work.



Total houses likely to be worked on

Territory Alliance has proposed that in total it will build 29 new houses and deliver 105 refurbishments, 23 upgrades and 25 extensions (detached bedroom and bathroom blocks):

- Four upgrades and 26 refurbishments in Milikapiti (leaving 36 houses in the community in poor condition, largely due to structural damage such as rust)
- 23 houses will be refurbished in Pirlangimpi, with 7 major upgrades, leaving only four houses in poor condition (because the condition of the housing stock is generally better due to the better brick construction)
- 29 new houses in Wurrumiyanga (25 housing units as this includes five duplexes), 12 upgrades, 25 extensions and 58 standard refurbishments. This leaves 34 houses in poor condition. The new houses will include a mix of duplexes, six person houses, houses for eight and 10 people, and a trial 'special needs' house with four separate bedrooms and shared living areas.



Total houses likely to be worked on (continued)

The reason why fewer new houses are being built in Wurrumiyanga than originally announced is:

- The initial announcement didn't take account of costs, including GST and overheads;
- The cost of a sub-division plan is included as this was already committed - although it has been agreed to defer the sub-division for now so more money is available to demolish some of the houses regarded by the community as 'eyesores' and build new houses within the existing township;
- The community suggested some alternative solutions to reducing overcrowding, including extensions to existing houses and enclosing verandahs on pensioner houses to provide living areas;
- The cost of demolishing condemned houses and removing asbestos;
- Ensuring new houses are built to last (such as specially treated structural steel to avoid rust in coastal areas) and special design elements such as strong rooms (for cyclone retreat), detached extensions, functional outdoor living areas and storage areas that was a strong request from women;
- Strong community pressure for a variety of house designs, which reduces economies of scale;
- General overheads.

Of 208 public houses in Wurrumiyanga, between 48 and 53 were estimated as requiring significant capital expenditure. The community preferred to see some of these demolished, with new houses scattered throughout the community rather than the proposed 62-house sub-division.

Total funds available

The funding that was made available for the SIHIP program on the Tiwi Islands is a total package of \$53.8 million (including additional funds approved in December) which consist of:

- \$45.7 million of this is for Wurrumiyanga for new and refurbished houses, replacement of houses requiring significant capital expenditure, new subdivision works and related infrastructure and headworks;
- \$4.5 million for Milikapiti; and
- \$3.6 million for Pirlangimpi.