

Department of Local Government and Housing

	2008-09 Estimate	2009-10 Budget
	\$000	\$000
Output Group		
Local Government	90 603	74 703
Housing Services	181 949	184 811
Housing and Infrastructure	137 566	205 682
Community Services	7 270	5 509
Total Expenses	417 388	470 705
Appropriation		
Output	147 445	152 613
Capital	55 612	57 419
Commonwealth	74 285	284 553

2009-10 Staffing: 547

Agency Profile

The primary role of the Department of Local Government and Housing is to transform social and physical infrastructure across the Territory by providing quality services to our clients and building stronger regions.

Key functional responsibilities include:

- developing local government capacity to provide legitimate representation, effective governance, improved service delivery and sustainable development;
- assisting shire councils and the communities they represent to become stronger and self sustaining;
- providing safe, affordable and appropriate housing in urban and remote areas for Territorians who are most in need;
- housing government employees who are eligible for accommodation;
- supporting community and welfare organisations in providing housing assistance to clients with special needs;
- delivering essential infrastructure and services to remote communities;
- providing interpreter and translator services; and
- promoting a safer community through the Under 5 Water Safety Voucher Scheme.

Strategic issues facing the agency in 2009-10 include:

- continuing to develop partnerships with the new shire councils to establish sustainable standards of service delivery and accountability under the local government reform framework;
- supporting the local government sector to promote sustainable, professional and democratic local government;
- implementing key initiatives under the National Affordable Housing Agreement, the associated National Partnership Agreements on

Homelessness, Social Housing and Remote Indigenous Housing and the Nation Building and Jobs Plan;

- developing innovative solutions to address housing affordability and changing public housing needs under the Government's Housing the Territory initiative;
- implementing new strategies to improve life skills and reduce antisocial behaviour in and around public housing;
- continuing to implement the new public housing framework for remote communities and town camps across the Territory;
- providing a strategic approach for the construction, maintenance and management of housing and essential services in Indigenous communities; and
- alleviating communication barriers faced by Territorians whose English is their second language by expanding the coverage of the Interpreting and Translating Service of the Northern Territory and enhancing the training and development of interpreters and translators.

Budget Highlights

- Commonwealth funding of \$1.7 billion over 10 years including \$218.81 million in 2009-10 under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing to construct new housing, upgrade existing housing and provide associated infrastructure in remote Indigenous communities, including the delivery of the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program.
- Commonwealth funding of \$1.28 million in 2009-10 under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness to construct additional social housing to support families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- Commonwealth funding of \$64 million over 4 years from 2008-09 under the Nation Building and Jobs Plan, including \$22.67 million in 2009-10 to refurbish and increase the supply of social housing.
- Commonwealth funding of \$21.4 million in 2009-10 under the National Affordable Housing Agreement to support tenancy and maintenance services on remote housing.
- Additional funding of \$20 million in 2009-10 for the Territory Government's commitment to improve remote Indigenous housing and related infrastructure.
- Funding of \$1.1 million to continue financial and administrative support to community organisations that provide housing options to special needs groups.
- Funding of \$4 million as part of an ongoing program to redevelop older style public housing unit complexes in the Territory.
- Increased funding of \$2.85 million in 2009-10 for contracting Essential Service Operators.
- Increased capital funding of \$3.95 million to address Indigenous essential services high priority items.

- Funding of \$32 million for land servicing and to construct, replace and upgrade Government employee housing in remote areas, including \$10 million under Closing the Gap.
- Additional ongoing funding of \$0.35 million for interpreter and translator services to alleviate communication barriers for non-English speaking Territorians.

	\$M
2009-10 New Capital Works	
Government Employee Housing	
Closing the Gap – construct housing in remote localities	10.0
Construct housing in remote localities	8.0
Land servicing for housing in remote localities	6.0
Replace existing housing in remote localities	2.0
Upgrade police and other priority housing in remote localities	6.0
Public Housing	
Bellamack Seniors Village	10.0
Construct general purpose housing	1.0
Homelessness National Partnership – A Place to Call Home	1.3
Construct and upgrade public housing stock	22.7
Redevelop unit complexes in urban areas	4.0
Indigenous Housing	
Strategic Indigenous Housing Infrastructure Program	98.2
2009-10 Major Capital Grants – Indigenous Essential Services	
Minor new works – NT wide	9.4
Alpurrurulam – construct new power station	1.6
Alpurrurulam – water source development	0.5
Barunga – water source development	0.5
Beswick – water source development	0.5
Palumpa – upgrade ground and elevated water storage	1.0
Ramingining – replace ground level water storage tank	0.7
Rittarangu – equip new production bores	0.5
Warruwi – extended power station and upgrade fuel bunding	0.6
Warruwi – replace water storage and provide additional capacity	1.0
Wilora – replace ground level water storage tank	0.4
Yuelamu – powerline connection to Yuendumu grid	2.4
2009-10 Major Capital Grants – Other	
Municipal and Essential Services	4.5
Strategic Indigenous Housing Infrastructure Program	78.5

Outputs and Performance

Output Group/Output	2008-09	2009-10	Variation
	Estimate	Budget	
	\$000	\$000	\$000
Local Government	90 603	74 703	- 15 900
Local Government	90 603	74 703	- 15 900
Housing Services	181 949	184 811	2 862
Urban Public Housing	78 859	84 429	5 570
Remote Public Housing	72 314	78 074	5 760
Government Employee Housing	17 379	17 447	68
Housing Reform	13 397	4 861	- 8 536
Housing and Infrastructure	137 566	205 682	68 116
Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program	29 312	112 498	83 186
Indigenous Essential Services	108 254	93 184	- 15 070
Community Services	7 270	5 509	- 1 761
Interpreter and Translator Services	5 150	3 357	- 1 793
Water Safety and Animal Welfare	2 120	2 152	32
Total Expenses	417 388	470 705	53 317

Key Variations

- The Local Government Output Group is lower in 2009-10 due to one-off funding in 2008-09 for the Local Government Infrastructure Investment Fund and Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements. Commonwealth funding in 2009-10 concludes for ShiresNet and Clever Network.
- The Urban Public Housing Output increases in 2009-10 primarily due to increased Commonwealth grant funding under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness and an increase in Territory Government funding.
- The Remote Public Housing Output increases in 2009-10 primarily due to the addition of Commonwealth funding for tenancy and property management costs. This funding is transferred from the Remote Housing Reform Output in 2009-10.
- The Housing Reform Output decreases in 2009-10 primarily due to the transfer of Commonwealth funding for tenancy and property management costs to the Remote Public Housing Output and one-off funding for implementation costs received in 2008-09 only.
- The Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program Output increases in 2009-10 due to increased Commonwealth funding under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing.
- The Indigenous Essential Services Output is lower in 2009-10 primarily due to one-off funding in 2008-09 from the Commonwealth for municipal services CDEP converted jobs and expenditure related to the Tasks of Opportunity program.

- The Interpreter and Translator Services Output is lower in 2009-10 as 2008-09 includes Commonwealth funding to improve communication between communities and service providers through access to appropriately trained interpreters and funding through the Northern Territory Emergency Response for the provision of Aboriginal interpreter services.

Output Group: Local Government

Build local government capacity to provide legitimate representation, effective governance, improved service delivery and sustainable development to assist local government bodies and the communities they represent to become stronger and self sustaining.

The outcome is effective, legitimate and sustainable local government.

Performance Measures		2008-09 Estimate	2009-10 Estimate
<i>Quantity</i>	Total value of grants distributed ¹	\$71.75M	\$64.93M
<i>Quality</i>	Grants successfully acquitted	100%	100%
<i>Timeliness</i>	Approved grants distributed to local government bodies on time	100%	100%

¹ Revised 2008-09 estimate is predominantly due to additional Commonwealth funding and grants carried forward from 2007-08. Variation between 2008-09 and 2009-10 estimates is primarily the result of one-off funding in 2008-09 under Closing the Gap funding for local government infrastructure investment.

Output Group: Housing Services

Provide access to and manage public housing for Territorians in urban and remote areas, including those who are most in need, eligible government employees and clients with high and complex needs.

The outcome is access to safe, sustainable and affordable housing for all eligible Territorians.

Urban Public Housing

Provide public housing to ensure Territorians have access to safe, sustainable and affordable housing. Provide housing and manage tenancies for key employees of private sector businesses and community organisations in regional centres where no private rental market exists. Provide grants to the community housing sector to assist in delivering crisis and supported accommodation to clients with high and complex needs.

Performance Measures		2008-09 Estimate	2009-10 Estimate
<i>Quantity</i>	Public housing dwellings ¹	5 251	5 275
	Public housing tenants receiving rental rebates	89%	89%
	New households assisted with public housing	530	541
	New households assisted through Bond Assistance Scheme ²	305	209
	Industry housing dwellings	315	336
	Community Housing program grants	\$0.69M	\$0.70M
	Crisis Accommodation program grants	\$0.43M	\$0.44M
	Grant applications processed	27	27
	<i>Quality</i>	Client satisfaction with provision of public housing assistance	68%
Occupancy rates		96%	96%
<i>Timeliness</i>	Response time for unforeseen maintenance:		
	– immediate (within 4 hours)	100%	100%
	– routine (within 10 working days)	96%	95%
	Average number of days to occupy vacant stock	45	45
	New households allocated housing ³ :		
	– in less than three months	9%	20%
	– between three months and six months	12%	30%
<i>Cost</i>	– between six months and one year	20%	10%
	– between one year and two years	26%	15%
	– two years and greater	33%	25%
	Total rent collected as a percentage of total rent charged	99%	99%
	Rent forgone ⁴	3.5%	3.5%

1 Estimate represents public housing dwellings being sold to public housing tenants through the Northern Territory Government's home ownership scheme.

2 Variation between 2008-09 and 2009-10 estimates reflects predicted private market conditions.

3 Variation between 2008-09 and 2009-10 estimates reflects new household allocation processes which have been based on national benchmarks.

4 Rent forgone is an indicator of vacant dwellings.

Remote Public Housing

Provide public housing to ensure Territorians in remote areas have access to safe, sustainable and affordable housing, including appropriate tenancy management and maintenance.

Performance Measures		2008-09 Estimate	2009-10 Estimate
<i>Quantity</i>	Remote public housing dwelling ^{1,2}	4 072	4 537
	Remote public housing tenancy leases ¹	38	778
<i>Quality</i>	Community housing reference groups established ¹	30	60
	Communities receiving repairs and maintenance services ¹	73	73
<i>Timeliness</i>	Repairs and maintenance grants acquitted within timeframes ¹	100%	100%
<i>Cost</i>	Repairs and maintenance grants to shires ¹	\$22.8M	\$27.6M

¹ New performance measure for 2009-10 reflecting the implementation of the new remote public housing framework.

² Alice Springs and Tennant Creek community living areas expected to come online in 2009-10.

Government Employee Housing

Provide housing and manage tenancies for eligible employees of Northern Territory Government agencies.

Performance Measures		2008-09 Estimate	2009-10 Estimate
<i>Quantity</i>	Dwellings in urban localities	277	289
	Dwellings in remote localities	910	933
	Private headleasing arrangements	369	431
<i>Quality</i>	Client satisfaction with services	80%	80%
	Proportion of dwellings at core amenity standard	30%	35%
	Occupancy rate	97%	98%
<i>Cost</i>	Cost recovery ratio ¹	95%	95%
	Average cost of new remote dwellings	\$0.65M	\$0.55M

¹ The ratio is the measure of the ability to recover costs from delivery of the Government Employee Housing program.

Housing Reform

Deliver strategic planning and policy advice, including community engagement and the negotiation of township leases, to support the implementation of a new Remote Public Housing Management Framework.

Performance Measures		2008-09 Estimate	2009-10 Estimate
<i>Quantity</i>	Number of communities part of negotiated township leases	4	5
<i>Quality</i>	Client satisfaction	100%	100%
<i>Timeliness</i>	Whole of community housing leasing milestones met	100%	100%

Output Group: Housing and Infrastructure

Provide housing, associated infrastructure and essential services in Indigenous and remote communities throughout the Territory.

The outcome is access to safe and affordable housing and essential services to promote the health and well-being of Territorians living in remote areas.

Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program

Deliver strategic planning and program development for the provision of new and upgraded housing and related infrastructure in Indigenous and remote communities throughout the Territory.

Performance Measures		2008-09 Estimate	2009-10 Estimate
<i>Quantity</i>	Refurbished dwellings ^{1,2}	20	730
	Replaced dwellings ³		28
	New dwellings ^{1,2}	20	65
<i>Quality</i>	Client satisfaction with services	> 95%	> 95%
<i>Timeliness</i>	Program milestones met	100%	100%

1 Revised performance measures for 2009-10 to reflect full mobilisation of the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program.

2 Revised 2008-09 estimates to reflect revised program delivery milestones.

3 Replacement of dwellings not due to commence until 2009-10.

Indigenous Essential Services

Coordinate funding and provide strategic planning and policy advice for the delivery of electricity, water and sewerage to remote Indigenous communities through the contracted service provider, Power and Water Corporation.

Performance Measures		2008-09 Estimate	2009-10 Estimate
<i>Quantity</i>	Capacity to plan, advise and deliver programs ¹	\$1.3M	\$1.6M
	Capacity to purchase services from service providers ²	\$100.3M	\$86.6M
<i>Quality</i>	Customer satisfaction with services ³	82%	82%
<i>Timeliness</i>	Agreed timeframes met	82%	82%

1 Revised 2008-09 estimate reflects additional Commonwealth funding for essential services to outstations.

2 Revised 2008-09 estimate reflects additional Commonwealth funded essential service grants carried forward from 2007-08 and additional contribution to Power and Water Corporation for distillate expenses and the SafeWater program. Variation between 2008-09 and 2009-10 estimates is primarily the result of the funded essential service grants carried forward from 2007-08.

3 Customer satisfaction surveys for 72 remote Indigenous communities, where good is rated as 75 per cent and very good as 100 per cent.

Output Group: Community Services

Provide interpreter and translator services and a water safety program.

The outcome is equitable and appropriate interpreter and translator services that meet the language communication needs of Territorians, and a safer community around swimming pools.

Interpreter and Translator Services

Provide interpreter and translator services to alleviate language barriers for Territorians with English as their second language to ensure fair and equitable access to Government and non-government services.

Performance Measures		2008-09 Estimate	2009-10 Estimate
<i>Quantity</i>	Interpreters registered with the AIS ¹	290	350
	Interpreters registered with ITSNT ²	125	150
	Translators registered with ITSNT ³	59	69
	Bookings received by AIS	5 300	6 400
	Bookings received by ITSNT Interpreting	4 250	4 350
	Bookings received by ITSNT Translating	900	900
	Languages and dialects covered by AIS	104	104
	Languages covered by ITSNT	48	55
	<i>Quality</i>	Successful Aboriginal interpreter training completions	90%
Successful ITSNT interpreter and translator training completions ⁴		100%	100%
<i>Timeliness</i>	Bookings attended by an Aboriginal interpreter ⁵	93%	93%
	Translations completed by ITSNT ⁵	99.8%	99.8%

1 Aboriginal Interpreter Services (AIS).

2 Interpreting and Translating Services NT (ITSNT).

3 Includes 39 translators located interstate.

4 Training program for ITSNT commences in 2008-09.

5 As a percentage of total bookings received.

Water Safety and Animal Welfare

Promote safer communities through the support of the Water Safety Strategy and the administration of the *Swimming Pool Safety Act* and the *Animal Welfare Act*.

Performance Measures		2008-09 Estimate	2009-10 Estimate
<i>Quantity</i>	Number of enrolments in the Under 5 Water Safety Awareness Program	1 100	1 100
	Number of community events and briefings held to promote animal welfare	5	5
<i>Quality</i>	Percentage of enrolments completing the Under 5 Water Safety Awareness Program	80%	80%
<i>Timeliness</i>	Animal welfare complaints responded to within three days	90%	90%
	New pool fences inspected within three weeks of receipt of application	70%	70%

Operating Statement

	2008-09 Estimate	2009-10 Budget
	\$000	\$000
INCOME		
Taxation revenue		
Grants and subsidies revenue		
Current	99 827	38 867
Capital	6 020	
Appropriation		
Output	147 445	152 613
Commonwealth	54 246	180 439
Sales of goods and services	41 946	46 121
Interest revenue		
Goods and services received free of charge	4 437	4 437
Gain(+)/loss(-) on disposal of assets	3 300	2 000
Other revenue	9 198	30
TOTAL INCOME	366 419	424 507
EXPENSES		
Employee expenses	43 965	41 272
Administrative expenses		
Purchases of goods and services	62 014	51 252
Repairs and maintenance	16 418	16 895
Depreciation and amortisation	20 457	20 446
Services free of charge	4 437	4 437
Other administrative expenses		
Grants and subsidies expenses		
Current	195 122	215 144
Capital	63 176	109 307
Community service obligations	781	1 034
Interest expenses	11 018	10 918
TOTAL EXPENSES	417 388	470 705
NET SURPLUS(+)/DEFICIT(-)	- 50 969	- 46 198

Balance Sheet

	2008-09 Estimate	2009-10 Budget
	\$000	\$000
ASSETS		
Cash and deposits	59 438	8 257
Receivables	15 717	15 717
Prepayments	1 833	1 833
Inventories		
Advances and investments	1 000	1 000
Property, plant and equipment	1 407 000	1 572 699
Other assets		
TOTAL ASSETS	1 484 988	1 599 506
LIABILITIES		
Deposits held	5 081	5 081
Creditors and accruals	2 604	2 603
Borrowings and advances	85 025	84 209
Provisions	3 998	3 998
Other liabilities	2 032	2 032
TOTAL LIABILITIES	98 740	97 923
NET ASSETS	1 386 248	1 501 583
EQUITY		
Capital		
Opening balance	70 021	118 663
Equity injections/withdrawals	48 642	161 533
Reserves	1 281 260	1 281 260
Accumulated funds		
Opening balance	37 294	- 13 675
Current year surplus(+)/deficit(-)	- 50 969	- 46 198
Accounting policy changes and corrections		
TOTAL EQUITY	1 386 248	1 501 583

Cash Flow Statement

	2008-09 Estimate	2009-10 Budget
	\$000	\$000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Operating receipts		
Taxes received		
Grants and subsidies received		
Current	92 954	38 867
Capital	6 020	
Appropriation		
Output	147 445	152 613
Commonwealth	54 246	180 439
Other agency receipts from sales of goods and services	63 203	46 151
Interest received		
Total operating receipts	363 868	418 070
Operating payments		
Payments to employees	44 009	41 272
Payments for goods and services	94 679	68 147
Grants and subsidies paid		
Current	195 122	215 144
Capital	63 176	109 307
Community service obligations	781	1 034
Interest paid	10 967	10 919
Total operating payments	408 734	445 823
NET CASH FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	- 44 866	- 27 753
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Investing receipts		
Proceeds from asset sales	18 800	19 000
Repayment of advances		
Sales of investments		
Total investing receipts	18 800	19 000
Investing payments		
Purchases of assets	72 264	203 145
Advances and investing payments	1 000	
Total investing payments	73 264	203 145
NET CASH FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	- 54 464	- 184 145
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Financing receipts		
Proceeds of borrowings		
Deposits received	1 853	
Appropriation		
Capital	55 612	57 419
Commonwealth	20 039	104 114
Equity injections	41 360	
Total financing receipts	118 864	161 533
Financing payments		
Repayment of borrowings	718	816
Finance lease payments		
Equity withdrawals	7 965	
Total financing payments	8 683	816
NET CASH FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES	110 181	160 717
Net increase(+)/decrease(-) in cash held	10 851	- 51 181
Cash at beginning of financial year	48 587	59 438
CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	59 438	8 257