



New Housing Investment on Hammond Island

The Council of Australian Government's National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPARIH) promises to deliver much needed social housing investment into our communities. Many communities have already signed up in the TSIRC electorate, with Native Title Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBC's) approving the program under Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUA's), including on Kubin and St Pauls Communities on Moa Island, Saibai, Mabuiag, Boigu, Poruma, Warraber, Badu and Mer Islands. Construction has already started in some of these communities.

With strict timeframes for the rollout of this program and the uncertainty on Hammond Island (due to an undetermined Native Title claim), it has been necessary for the State Government (with the support of TSIRC) to issue a notice under the *Native Title Act* (Cth), to the Hammond Island Native Title claimants to advise of TSIRC's intention to proceed with this important social housing investment for the benefit of our constituents. This will ensure that essential housing investment is secured for Hammond Island.

TSIRC respects all traditional lands and acknowledges the Kaurareg People as rightful traditional owners. Notwithstanding the notice, TSIRC and State Government do however remain firmly committed to negotiating in good faith an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) over the short-term to progress the program on Hammond Island, as has occurred on all other islands in the Torres Strait.

Should you have any queries in relation to the program, please contact our Legal Team on (07) 4034 5700.

Dania Ahwang
Chief Executive Officer