



21 November 2018

Mr Alan Raine
Acting Committee Secretary
Senate Economic References Committee SG.64
PO Box 6100
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Alan

QUESTION ON NOTICE FROM DARWIN HEARING – INQUIRY INTO REGIONAL INEQUALITY

At the hearing of the Inquiry into the indicators of, and impact of, regional inequality in Australia in Darwin on 5 November, the following question was taken on notice:

ACTING CHAIR:can I just take you to another area of our terms of reference, on housing manufacturing and any other related matters. Would you care to provide any information to the committee in relation to that around the area of housing?

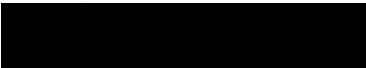
We provide our response to this question as follows.

NT Shelter does not have sufficient information on hand relating to the housing-related manufacturing capability in the Northern Territory. We intend to have discussions with industry bodies and the Northern Territory Government to better understand the size, economic contribution and prospects of housing-related manufacturing entities that are domiciled in the NT.

NT Shelter has heard accounts of many Aboriginal people across remote communities who have been involved in small scale housing-related manufacturing activities in the past or, more broadly, in housing construction. The costs of housing delivery and construction in the Northern Territory are high relative to other jurisdictions. It is important therefore to pursue opportunities to develop capabilities in local communities for import replacement through local manufacturing, construction and assembly. This will require a collaborative effort to transfer skills and autonomy to local communities with more control over their housing needs and outcomes as well as generate employment and economic development opportunities.

We believe it likely that development of regional and local housing-related manufacturing businesses would create local supply chains and have considerable economic and social impacts for the communities as well as the Territory more broadly.

Yours faithfully


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Executive Officer

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