

Media Release

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The real DEAL on housing



DEVELOPING
EAST ARNHEM

- 155 properties let in 20 months
- More properties becoming available as they are up-dated for occupancy
- "DEAL Housing has helped to enable us to convert our workforce to a local workforce rather than rely on remote workers being flown in. It works out cheaper to house a worker locally," General Manager YBE (2) Murray Knyvett.

Developing East Arnhem Limited (DEAL) has successfully leased 155 properties to local businesses growing employment in the region since its inception in November 2014.

DEAL was established with \$2 million seed funding provided by Rio Tinto and \$2 million from the Northern Territory Government. In addition, Rio Tinto also provided 250 properties to be leased to businesses employing people.

Chief Executive Carley Scott said the housing component of Rio Tinto's funding for the organisation was critical to economic development in the region.

"Businesses in our region need to continue growing off the back of the curtailment," she said.

"To do this, businesses must be able to ensure employees have a place to live when they come to work in East Arnhem Land.

"DEAL leases the housing only to entities that employ people, which is critical to the prosperity of our region."

On paper, there are 100 properties that are not currently leased, however, this is not a true reflection of availability.

"Not all of the 250 houses were available immediately when DEAL started in 2014, and some are still not ready to be leased," Ms Scott said.

"They are part of a rolling stock of houses that become available once they have been up-dated and maintained and are again fit for occupancy."

DEAL's housing stock includes stand-alone houses and flats, which are let to employees of a range of businesses in East Arnhem Land.

Gumatj Aboriginal Corporation CEO Klaus Helms said DEAL housing allowed his organisation to grow.

"It's good to have the (housing) availability and knowing this (removes) long procrastinations for accepting work," he said.

The renting option means Gumatj Aboriginal Corporation can run its own business without adding extra costs like building housing.

"The housing allows us to be flexible to take on extra jobs and accommodation," Mr Helms said.

DEAL's achievements

155 houses leased

20 direct jobs created through funded business growth programs

100,000 people reached through engagement activities

\$1,000,000 in grants opened for businesses to grow employment under the Developing East Arnhem Economic Development Fund

14 events supported by DEAL

80 people trained through DEAL supported initiatives

290,000 hits on the new DEAL economic development website

12 economic modelling reports to support local funding applications



Over the past 25 years, Miwatj Health has grown from 25 employees to 180 and CEO Eddie Mulholland said the organisation uses DEAL housing to help meet demand.

“Regional demand for housing has changed and fluctuates over time,” Mr Mulholland said.

“The main benefit is the access to the housing and knowing they are available to us.”

Availability of the housing is also critical to YBE (2), and the quick and responsive service to rent a DEAL house is important.

“We are using DEAL Housing more and more. It’s great to access housing – especially if we need to employ someone quickly,” General Manager Murray Knyvett said.

“DEAL Housing has helped to enable us to convert our workforce to a local workforce rather than rely on remote workers being flown in. It works out cheaper to house a worker locally.”

To find out more about DEAL housing, please visit <http://www.developingeastarnhem.com.au/living/housing>

To arrange an interview with CEO Carley Scott, please contact Tom Foster on +61 8 8987 0558 or email tom@developingeastarnhem.com.au

About Developing East Arnhem Limited

Developing East Arnhem Limited (DEAL) was established in November 2014 to support economic development in the region. The organisation was established with seed funding provided by the Northern Territory Government (\$2M) and Rio Tinto Alcan (\$2M). DEAL is managed by a Board of Directors, and has a full time Chief Executive Officer and Project Manager, and a part time Business Office Manager. The Many Rivers Field Officer shares the DEAL office, which is located in Nhulunbuy. To find out more about DEAL, visit www.developingeastarnhem.com.au

About East Arnhem Economic Development Fund

The East Arnhem Economic Development Fund was established by Developing East Arnhem Limited to support organisations to deliver sustainable economic development initiatives in the East Arnhem Land region. A total pool of \$500,000 is available in 2016/17. For information on the fund, including project eligibility and selection criteria, visit www.developingeastarnhem.com.au