

Manabadurma Town Camp update

Manabadurma and the Jabiru Master Plan – update

What you need to know

- Manabadurma residents will not need to leave their homes when the lease expires.
- You will not be forced to move because of new development in Jabiru unless and until alternative living arrangements have been made.
- The Jabiru town head lease and all associated sub-leases expire on 30 June 2021 – not in January 2021 as listed in the Town Camps Independent Review.
- After 30 June 2021, you will not have to leave your home.
- The Northern Territory Government is supporting the development and implementation of the Jabiru Masterplan and will be working with the Mirarr native title holders, Jabiru Kabolkmakmen Ltd (JKL) and Manabadurma residents to make local decisions about housing options beyond 2021.

Background

About the Town Camps Independent Review

In 2016, the Northern Territory Government commissioned an independent review into the 43 Northern Territory town camps. The review included multiple visits to each community, and consultation with stakeholders and service providers. The Northern Territory Government supports or supports in-principle the 22 summary recommendations in the report.

However, as an independent report, the Northern Territory Government does not support all information provided in the report, particularly comments relating to the transition of residents away from their homes for economic opportunities.

Further work on the future of Jabiru and the Jabiru Manabadurma Town Camp means the views and information documented in the 2016 report may no longer be accurate.

Corrections to the independent review

The leasing information about Manabadurma and Jabiru contained in the independent review is incorrect.

The land in Jabiru is leased by the Commonwealth Director of National Parks to the Jabiru Town Development Authority. The sub-lease for the land on which Manabadurma sits is held by the West Arnhem Regional Council and is currently zoned Open Space.

The Jabiru town head lease and all associated sub-leases **expire on 30 June 2021** – not in January 2021 as listed in the Town Camps Independent Review. Unlike many town camps, Manabadurma is not located on a Special Purpose Lease for the purpose of residential living or camping.

The expiration of the Jabiru town lease does not materially alter the status of Manabadurma town camp. The expiry of the lease neither improves nor diminishes the security of the tenure. Manabadurma residents will not need to leave their homes when the head lease expires.

The future of Manabadurma

The Jabiru Masterplan does not address the future for Manabadurma town camp. This is not the purpose of the Masterplan.

No Manabadurma residents will be forced to move as a result of new development unless and until alternative living arrangements have been made and/or investment has been secured for planned tourism developments adjacent to Manabadurma.

The Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet (DCMC), with assistance from the Territory Families, Housing and Communities (TFHC), is supporting the development and implementation of the Jabiru Masterplan, including working with the Mirarr native title holders, Jabiru Kabolkmakmen Ltd (JKL) and Manabadurma residents to make local decisions about housing options beyond 2021.

In October 2019, staff from DCMC and TFHC undertook consultations with residents of Manabadurma to understand residents' connection to Jabiru and discuss people's long-term residential living plans. The majority of residents reported they wish to remain living close to Jabiru and wanted traditional owners to discuss any changes to Manabadurma with them directly.

In March 2020, staff from DCMC and TFHC presented the consultation findings to traditional owners. Traditional owners confirmed that the future of Manabadurma residents is not a matter for which they are the responsible stakeholder. They agreed to meet with Manabadurma residents to discuss future living arrangements while noting that other stakeholders have a more direct responsibility for service provision to town camp residents. The key service provision agency is Warnbi Aboriginal Corporation Kakadu.

JKL, DCMC and TFHC and West Arnhem Regional Council are working to understand the changes to their employee housing policies that would allow casual employees and Community Development Program workers to access the same housing options as other permanent employees. Such a change may provide new and more equitable housing options for Manabadurma and other Kakadu outstation residents

JKL has also begun discussions with service providers and non-government organisations to discuss new services to Jabiru such as aged care and hostel accommodation for Aboriginal people transiting through Jabiru. If these service providers are agreeable to provide services in Jabiru it may provide new housing options for some Manabadurma residents and other Aboriginal people who occasionally stay at Manabadurma or other Kakadu outstations.

The Mirarr Traditional Owners and the newly established township entity Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation Jabiru Town have advised the NT Government they are not aware of any imminent plans by any proposed new sub-lessee such that there will be any urgent need for residents to relocate for the foreseeable future.

DCMC, TFHC, Northern Land Council, JKL and the relevant stakeholders including Warnbi Aboriginal Corporation Kakadu will continue to work together to determine suitable future living arrangements for Manabadurma residents.