



**NORTHERN
LAND COUNCIL**

Our Land, Our Sea, Our Life

Participation Agreement: Community Projects

Community Planning & Development (Community Projects) is a free service offered by the Northern Land Council (NLC). Community Projects helps Aboriginal groups work together to do projects for their families/communities.

To do your own projects you must think about what is important for your group and what you want for the future. Community Projects will help you work towards these goals. For example, goals such as:

- Supporting young people
- Healthy people
- More jobs
- Education and training opportunities
- Strong culture
- Connection to country

The NLC will help you to plan projects following the 8-step journey or pathway. The NLC will also help you work with other organisations to get extra funding or to do your projects. The NLC will also help you learn some new skills, like budgeting and managing projects.

What kinds of Community Projects can you do?

You can do any project that helps you achieve your goals but you cannot buy vehicles or pay off debts.

Your (Traditional Owner) Role

- **Be strong leaders and want to drive change. You will:**
 - Create a group vision – including your group's goals
 - Develop group rules for project meetings and how to make decisions; and
 - Learn how to manage projects;
- **Decide how you will work together on projects:** for example you might chose a representative group of at least 4 group members to do the planning.
- **Ask questions and communicate your thoughts and ideas**
- **Attend meetings:** A majority of planning group members should come to each of the meetings.
- **Respect group decisions:** When a decision is made by the whole group, or by the chosen planning group, you will respect that decision.

The NLC's Role

- **Meet with you to do planning:** We will hold about 4 meetings with your group each year. At these meetings, the NLC will help you plan and manage projects. The NLC will cover the cost of all planning meetings.
- **Look after project money:** Your community project money is held in a different account to other NLC money and has its own 'budget code'. That money is only used for your projects. None of that money is used for work done by the NLC.

- **Give clear money stories:** The NLC will give you clear information about how much money you have in your Community Projects account. The NLC will give you updates on how that money has been used for your projects. You can ask us for information about your project money at any time.
- **Record decisions:** The NLC will keep clear records of any important decisions made during meetings. You can ask for a copy of the meeting minutes.
- **Communicate well:** The NLC will give you newsletters to record important actions, decisions and updates about your projects. The NLC will always answer any questions you have about your projects.

Our Role Working Together (Traditional Owners and the NLC)

We will work together to:

- **Plan and manage projects. We will:**
 - Think about different options for projects,
 - Find strong project partners (the organisations you work with),
 - Understand the costs of projects,
 - Make legal agreements to help manage the projects,
 - Follow the 8-step journey.
- **Manage risks:** We will think about risks and possible problems. We will plan how to try and stop and/or control any problems that come up. This will help to make sure that projects go smooth and safe.
- **Put safety first:** We will not support projects that do not have safety plans. We will not partner with organisations that do not have a good health and safety record.
- **Keep track of progress:** We will think about how projects are going and see if they meet your goals.

Ending participation

You can stop working on Community Projects when your group agrees on this together.

What if there is still money left in your project bucket? Then you must put that leftover money to something that will help the community. For example, you might put the money towards a local community organisation.

Contact details

Regional project officer:

Program manager:

Sarah Rennie, Manager - Community Projects
0477 880 282 sarah.rennie@nlc.org.au

Key group contacts:

Feedback/complaints

Maybe you are not happy with the Community Projects service provided by the Northern Land Council, or maybe you have some other feedback - please submit a complaint via our website:

www.nlc.org.au/contact-us/complaints