



NORTHERN  
LAND COUNCIL

# Community Planning and Development

*Building stronger communities and better lives.*

**Newsletter 3, June 2019**



Boys do crocodile dancing as part of the smoking ceremony for raypirri camps, learning discipline and respect. Traditional owners fund the raypirri camps at Galiwin'ku to support their young people

## Top End groups invest in outstations, language and culture

Aboriginal groups working through the NLC's Community Planning and Development Program (CP&D) use their income from land-use agreements on projects that will bring broad and lasting community benefit.

Many groups are investing in projects that support language, culture and living on outstations for their community. People want their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren to grow up knowing their country, culture and language.

### Key facts:

- 8 traditional owner groups working with the NLC CP&D Program
- \$6.5 million of land use income set aside for community development through the CP&D Program
- 24 community development projects approved by traditional Aboriginal owners
  - 50% of these (12 projects) support language, culture or outstations.
  - Other projects support youth engagement, law and justice, governance, education and community infrastructure
  - 4 projects complete; some projects are funded over 2-3 years.

*Aboriginal people driving their own development in the Top End*

# How the CP&D program supports culture and getting back to country

## Daly River

“We all need to start learning and seeing country, learning about culture. I go to country and pass on knowledge and am proud of my teaching. Important for us to learn” says Angela Neidacowie, Malak Malak traditional owner.

As well as investing in culture camps, Malak Malak traditional owners have funded a language learning mobile app.



Learning about country

## Legune

“Why we upgraded the community [Marralum outstation] is for a better life for us, to get away from the trouble in town. To bring up our kids out there, teaching them what we learnt as kids out there. To look after the land out there, and...we can work at the cattle station and with Seafarms...

We got the money from Seafarms to help to build up the place, and then asked NLC to give us a hand with the planning, the hard part, we made all the decisions in Djarra-Djarrany tribe meetings. It feels good to make those decisions together, and make those changes in our life, and for our future” says Marcus Simon, native title holder at Legune.



Upgrades to Marralum outstation have helped people of all ages get out on country.

## Ngukurr

“We wanted to pass our traditional knowledge to young ones there, we don’t want them to lose that cultural connection with the land. We’ve got kinship with animals and plants, and it’s offensive if you don’t know which plants and animals you have connection with” says Winston Thompson, traditional owner and Yugul Mangi ranger coordinator talking about the Ngukurr culture camp.

During the camp everyone practised Nunggubuyu and Rembarunga languages with the Ngukurr Language Centre. The camp was funded by the South East Arnhem Land Indigenous Protected Area (SEAL IPA) Advisory Committee using carbon abatement income generated by the ranger’s fire work on the SEAL IPA.



Winston Thompson shares his knowledge with kids.

## Palumpa

Rak Papangala traditional owners are building a new outstation using their land use agreement money. 'We want to get away from Wadeye and Palumpa, too many problems and no room for us. We want to move to our own country', says Wally Minjin.



Wally and Peter Minjin check out the spot for their new outstation

## How is the CP&D work going? Monitoring and Evaluation

Traditional owner groups keep an eye on their community projects and regularly reflect on what can be improved. "We give out contracts to service organisations and today we heard very good reports on their work," said one traditional owner in Galiwin'ku.

The NLC is pleased to receive funding from the Australian Government Department for Prime Minister and Cabinet for a three year monitoring project for the CP&D Program. From 2019-2022 the NLC is partnering with La Trobe University and the Northern Institute, Charles Darwin University, to support a process of critical reflection, assessment and improvement of the program.

Through monitoring and evaluation work, Aboriginal people can say what change they want from community development projects and find the best way to measure this change. Then later, they can look at whether these changes actually happened.



Galiwin'ku traditional owners hear from project partner Yalu Marngithinyaraw Indigenous Corporation about the raypirri camps they are running

## About the program

The NLC Community Planning and Development (CP&D) Program started in 2016, approved by the NLC Full Council. It supports Aboriginal land-owning groups to use their money from land use agreements, such as royalties or lease money, to drive their own development and secure benefits from their land, waters and seas.

The CP&D Program is based on good governance and Aboriginal decision-making at every step of the way, following an eight step planning process.

Each group of traditional owners decide if they want to work through the CP&D Program and how much of their money to use. Then they decide on their development objectives, based on their own priorities, knowledge and experience.

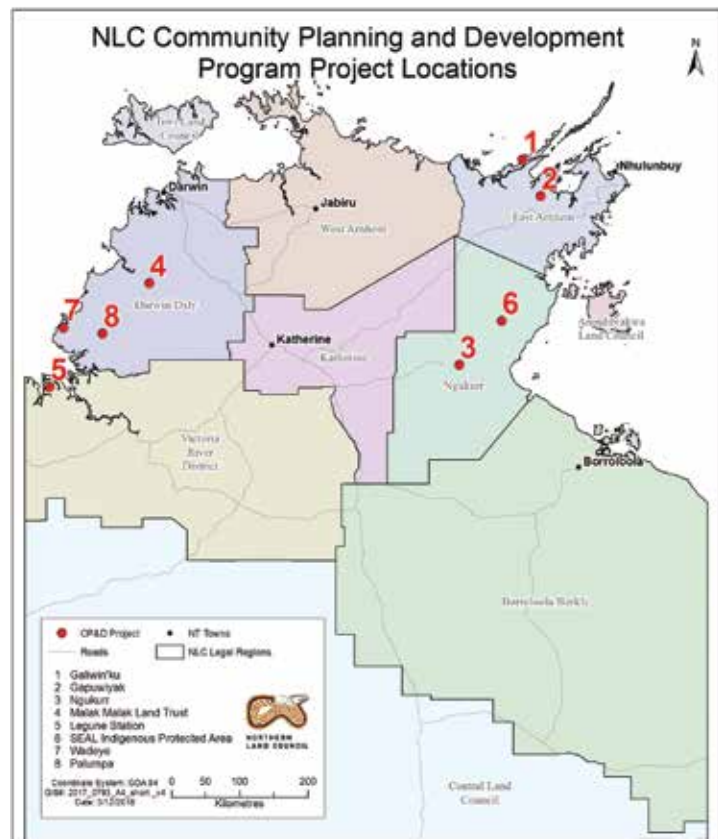
They work with the NLC and partner organisations to plan and carry out projects that will create broad and lasting community development. At the end, they look back at how it went – what worked, what didn't, what to do differently next time.

## Program principles

- Self-determination
- Local Aboriginal participation
- Building on strengths
- Benefits for all group members
- Flexibility - try it, see how it goes, make changes
- Long-term engagement by the NLC

## Where we work

Eight communities across the Top End are working through the CP&D Program with NLC staff.



## Next steps for the CP&D Program

NLC is carefully growing the CP&D program so that it can properly support groups to plan and deliver good strong projects. The CP&D team looks forward to working with new groups that want to put at least \$250,000 to community benefit.



Local workers in Lake Evella paint houses in town. Traditional owners have helped the local CDP provider kick start the painting business to create more jobs for young people.

To find out more, email [cpd@nlc.org.au](mailto:cpd@nlc.org.au) or freecall 1800 645 299.