



NORTHERN  
LAND COUNCIL

# INFORMATION SHEET

*Our Land, Our Sea, Our Life*

## Ranger Compliance Support Project Update Dec. 2019

What you need to know about the Ranger Compliance Support Project at the Northern Land Council.

### What is the project?

Through support from the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), the Northern Land Council (NLC) Caring for Country Branch has been provided some funding to help ensure NLC Ranger Groups are appropriately trained, resourced and supported to undertake targeted compliance activities on their traditional land and sea estates.

The project also aims to ensure that Traditional Owners and rangers lead the management of compliance activities on their country, that the rangers are kept safe, and that the external agencies have the evidence they need to effectively deal with people who break the law.

Project funding is to June 2021.

### Project Activities

The following activities are proposed.

- **Establish Project Working Group**

- A forum to engage and consult with partner agencies on NLC Ranger Compliance programs. Members to include NT Police, NIAA, DPIR Fisheries, NT Parks and Wildlife, NT Land Councils and other Aboriginal organisations.





- **Develop CFC Ranger Compliance Policy and Procedures Manual**
  - A reference tool for use by all NLC staff that explains the legal standards and procedures for managing ranger patrol operations and suspected breaches of legislation on NT Aboriginal Land.
- **Establish Ranger Compliance Support team**
  - Assist in project delivery and reporting (to Traditional Owners, Council members, NLC staff and external agencies)
  - Provide NLC rangers with administrative support for responding to incidents, recording outcomes of patrols, then analysing, responding and referring compliance related incidents to the appropriate agencies.
  - Establish the Ranger compliance help desk and hotline service.
- **Develop individual area compliance plans**
  - Develop specific ranger group operational area plans to identify and outline compliance “hotspots”. Plan operations to support the agreed priorities, schedule patrols, engage stakeholders, address education and communication priorities (e.g. signage etc)
- **Develop IT tools and database support for compliance activities**
  - Provide IT tools and other support to assist Ranger patrols, evidence collection and incident reporting.
  - Establish a database for NLC ranger group Incident Report administration, recording and referral process.
- **Compliance Training for NLC Rangers**
  - Work with program partners to identify suitable compliance training packages for all NT Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers. This includes the development and delivery of a new Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Compliance Training course (Cert II level).
  - Provide skills refresher training and mentoring programs.



- Provide the capacity for compliance career development and progression for NLC rangers.

## **Current works (as of December 2019).**

Project approved and work commenced mid November 2019.

- Senior Project Coordinator has been employed 3 days a week until mid-February, then fulltime to June 2020.
- Project Coordinator and Project Officer positions approved and advertised for recruitment this week; applications close 10/1.
- Draft papers on NLC compliance training options, compliance area plans and the proposed incident management database are currently being drafted for approval.

## **How can NLC Rangers get involved now?**

Start engaging with your community and stakeholders in relation to compliance issues on your country. Tell them about this project.

- What compliance issues are there on your country?
- What are the priorities for compliance operational area plans?
- What ideas does the community have in relation to managing these compliance risks?

## **What are the benefits for the NLC and particularly NLC Rangers?**

- Protection and promotion of Aboriginal rights, interests and culture, and mutual respect between landowners and visitors
- Have NLC Rangers better skilled, equipped and supported to conduct compliance activities safely on country.
- Provides clear ways forward in managing compliance risks while engaging traditional owners and other stakeholders.
- Provides opportunities for Rangers to develop compliance skills in preparation for future opportunities with partner agencies, including the appointment of legislated powers.



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## What are the benefits for our partner agencies?

- Provides increased capacity and quality with 'eyes and ears' surveillance across remote areas.
- Provides intelligence, evidence and other information in relation to unlawful activities on Aboriginal lands.
- Provides partner agencies a centralised point for liaising with NLC and/or CFC Ranger groups in relation to compliance issues, allows the further development of relationships and systems, streamline referral process', and access to 'filtered' reports and intelligence.
- Provides further opportunities to work closely with NLC Rangers on their country.



## What are the benefits for visitors?

Through developed compliance strategies and compliance education programs, signage etc, visitors will:

- Better understand their obligations and responsibilities when accessing Aboriginal Land.
- Have a better understanding of the role Rangers have in Caring for Country.

## Have your say about the compliance projects

Send your questions about the project to: [wellia@nlc.org.au](mailto:wellia@nlc.org.au)

