



NORTHERN  
LAND COUNCIL

*Our Land, Our Sea, Our Life*

# Community Planning and Development Program

*Building stronger communities and better lives*

The Northern Land Council's Community Planning and Development (CP&D) Program helps Aboriginal people to drive their own development projects and secure a range of social, cultural, economic, environmental benefits from their land, waters and seas.

The NLC works with Aboriginal groups to plan and do projects that create lasting community benefit, using money from their land use agreements.

## Principles

The CP&D Program is based on the principles of Aboriginal self-determination and participation. It builds on Aboriginal people's strengths so that project outcomes are valued and shared across groups.

## How it works

Each group of traditional owners decides if they want to work with the CP&D program for their income, what projects they want to do, and how they should be run, following an eight step planning process. The process strengthens peoples' capacity, control and group cohesion.

**Upgrading Marralum  
Outstation, Legune**



**Studying native bees with  
rangers at the Ngukurr  
Culture Camp**



**Project planning at Lake Evella**

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# 8 Steps in the CP&D process

*Building stronger communities and better lives*

## 1. Getting started

Will the NLC Community Planning and Development Program be good for our group / community?  
How much money will we set aside?

## 2. Working together

Who will be involved?  
Do we need a working group?  
How will plans and decisions be made?

## 3. What is best for community

What do we want to achieve?  
What projects will bring lasting benefit?

## 4. Make a project plan

How will the project work?  
Which organisation will deliver the project?  
How much will it cost?

## 5. Decide on a project

Is the project plan and budget strong and clear?  
Do we want to fund the project?

## 6. Enter a funding agreement

NLC checks:  
Right people and proper process?  
Is there lasting benefit?  
Money won't be used to buy vehicles or pay off debts.  
NLC signs legal agreement with partner organisation.

## 8. Looking back

Did the project benefit the group / community as planned?  
Was the money used in the right way?

## 7. The project happens

The project starts and the NLC helps make sure it stays on track.

## CP&D Goal and Objectives

### Goal

**Healthy, resilient and engaged Aboriginal people, groups and communities that are strong in language, culture, connection to country, health, education and employment.**

### Objective 1

Strengthen Aboriginal capacity, control and group cohesion, particularly through the management of their money.

### Objective 2

Achieve social, cultural, environmental and economic outcomes Aboriginal people want, value and benefit from.

### Objective 3

Document, monitor and evaluate the work to make sure it is on track and delivering outcomes valued by Aboriginal people.

### Objective 4

Show Governments and other organisations how they can better support Aboriginal-led planning and development.



Choosing project ideas in Ngukurr



Community legal education in Galiwin'ku

## What is community development?

'Community development' has been used in Australia and all over the world to help groups and communities work together to drive their own development. It is about building stronger communities and better lives. Community development works best when groups of people take action together, based on their ideas about what is important, and their knowledge of how to solve problems. Groups become stronger and their skills improve when they work together.

But they are not expected to do it on their own. Often they need help. Organisations, like the Northern Land Council, can work alongside a group or community at each step of the way.

Community development workers support groups to do good planning, make informed decisions about the plans, make sure the work happens, and then look at whether the plans were successful and what lessons have been learnt.

If you want to find out more about the NLC's Community Planning and Development Program, please call 8920 5255 or 1800 645 299 (freecall) or email [cpd@nlc.org.au](mailto:cpd@nlc.org.au).