

## Strategic Indigenous Tourism Projects

FEDERATION FUNDING AGREEMENT – AFFORDABLE HOUSING,  
COMMUNITY SERVICES AND OTHER

<b>Table 1: Formalities and operation of schedule</b>	
Parties	Commonwealth Northern Territory
Duration	This Schedule is expected to expire on 30 June 2025.
Purpose	<p>This Schedule will support the delivery of strategic Indigenous tourism projects to increase the supply of Indigenous tourism experiences and/or create supply chain opportunities for Indigenous tourism businesses within the Australian tourism industry.</p> <p>Strategic co-investment will be delivered in partnership with the Northern Territory Government, recognising its unique Indigenous tourism opportunities and investment needs.</p> <p>Suitable projects have been identified and will be implemented in line with the statement of strategic intent and investment principles set out in Appendix A to this Schedule.</p>
Strategic Alignment	<p>This Schedule is framed to align with all four priority reform areas and socio-economic outcomes set out in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.</p> <p>In entering into this Schedule, the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Government recognise their mutual commitment to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and the need to work together to achieve those outcomes.</p>

<p>Estimated financial contributions</p>	<p>The Commonwealth will provide an estimated total financial contribution to the Northern Territory Government of \$3.0 million from 2023-24 to 2024-25 in respect of this Schedule.</p> <p>The Northern Territory will provide a minimum financial co-contribution of 50% matched funding to support the delivery of projects identified in this Schedule. Total project costs may be met with funding sourced from the public or private sector, or a combination of both.</p> <p>Further details on the Commonwealth and the Northern Territory estimated financial contributions for the implementation of this Schedule are set out in the tables below.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="443 779 1399 1167"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="443 779 719 853">Table 1 (\$ million)</th> <th data-bbox="719 779 831 853">2023-24</th> <th data-bbox="831 779 1326 853">2024-25</th> <th data-bbox="1326 779 1399 853">Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="443 853 719 927"><b>Estimated total budget</b></td> <td data-bbox="719 853 831 927"><b>1.705m</b></td> <td data-bbox="831 853 1326 927"><b>4.295m</b></td> <td data-bbox="1326 853 1399 927"><b>6.0</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="443 927 719 1010"><i>Commonwealth 50% co-investment</i></td> <td data-bbox="719 927 831 1010">0.8525m</td> <td data-bbox="831 927 1326 1010">2.1475m</td> <td data-bbox="1326 927 1399 1010">3.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="443 1010 719 1115"><i>Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions</i></td> <td data-bbox="719 1010 831 1115"></td> <td data-bbox="831 1010 1326 1115"></td> <td data-bbox="1326 1010 1399 1115"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="443 1115 719 1167">- Northern Territory</td> <td data-bbox="719 1115 831 1167">0.8525m</td> <td data-bbox="831 1115 1326 1167">2.1475m</td> <td data-bbox="1326 1115 1399 1167">3.0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Table 1 (\$ million)	2023-24	2024-25	Total	<b>Estimated total budget</b>	<b>1.705m</b>	<b>4.295m</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<i>Commonwealth 50% co-investment</i>	0.8525m	2.1475m	3.0	<i>Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions</i>				- Northern Territory	0.8525m	2.1475m	3.0
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<p>Additional terms</p>	<p><i>In addition to the requirements set out in clause 19 of the Federation Funding Agreement – Affordable Housing, Community Services and Other, the Commonwealth agrees to conduct a post-implementation evaluation of the strategic partnership. The Northern Territory Government and other project partners will be responsible for participating in this evaluation.</i></p> <p><i>In addition to the requirements set out in clause 20, the Northern Territory will be responsible for leading stakeholder engagement and project selection processes, and bringing forward proposals for Commonwealth co-investment consideration.</i></p> <p><i>In addition to the requirements set out in clause 21, the Northern Territory Government agrees to:</i></p> <p><i>a. provide reasonable opportunity for the Commonwealth to contribute to developing communications strategies for all projects with a Commonwealth funding contribution;</i></p>																				

*b. provide the Commonwealth with equal access to products and materials developed for promotional use (including but not limited to project data, footage and images); and*

*c. the joint announcement of all projects under this Schedule, unless otherwise agreed by the Commonwealth.*

**Table 2: Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary**

Output	Performance milestones	Report due	Payment (\$ million)
The Aboriginal Cultural Tourism Framework and toolkit.	Delivery of a foundation report and the framework including a drive market toolkit to provide a pathway for Aboriginal cultural tourism development within the NT tourism sector.	01/05/2024	\$0.0825m
	Delivery and presentation of complementary tools that continue to strengthen the framework and support Aboriginal cultural tourism business and product development. Tools include fact sheets (visual and text), animations/videos and checklists.	01/05/2025	\$0.0425m
The Aboriginal Cultural wellness and bushfood tourism opportunities project.	Delivery of a factual and evidence based report on the opportunities (definition and understanding) aligned with the Aboriginal Cultural Tourism Framework and the Tourism NT's Business Support Guide's seven-pillar framework. Will include supporting infographic style documentation of the opportunities and a short video.	1/05/2024	\$0.050m
	Delivery and presentation of complementary tools to support Aboriginal cultural wellness and bushfood tourism business and product development. Tools include fact sheets (visual and text), animations/videos, case studies and checklists.	01/05/2025	\$0.050m
The Aboriginal tourism development grant programs.	Evidence of commitment of funds to grant recipients, evidence of state-based matching of funding and the Northern Territory to provide a report on the progress of delivery of the programs up until June 2024.	01/05/2024	\$0.500m
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The Aboriginal tourism trade ready program.	Delivery of a Northern Territory tailored program in collaboration with Australian Tourism Export Council and Tourism Australia and report including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Establish collaborative arrangements with Australian Tourism Export Council and Tourism Australia.</li><li>• Provide scope of program and activities to support entrepreneurs build business skills.</li><li>• Confirmation of program numbers e.g. 24 NT majority owned Aboriginal tourism businesses and NT based Aboriginal Territorians.</li><li>• Key trade events businesses attended to obtain practical experience and outcomes.</li></ul>	01/05/2025	\$0.300m

The Aboriginal cultural tourism entrepreneur's accelerator program.	Delivery of a Northern Territory tailored program in partnership with Indigenous Business Australia and report including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish partnership with Indigenous Business Australia</li> <li>• Provide scope of program and activities to support entrepreneurs build business skills.</li> </ul>	01/05/2024	\$0.110m
	Delivery of a Northern Territory tailored program in partnership with Indigenous Business Australia and report including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key program outcomes and insights</li> <li>• Confirmation of program numbers e.g. 30 NT majority owned Aboriginal tourism businesses and NT based Aboriginal Territorians.</li> </ul>	01/05/2025	\$0.240m
The Aboriginal tourism development on Top End and Central Australia joint managed Northern Territory parks program.	Delivery of a program to progress Aboriginal tourism business and product development opportunities in the Top End region (includes Darwin, Litchfield, Kakadu, Arnhem and Katherine/Daly) and in the Central Australian region (includes Barkly, Alice Springs/MacDonnell and Lasseter): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide program planning and scope for stage 2 business and product development considerations that supports Traditional Owner organisations and NT majority owned Aboriginal businesses.</li> <li>• Confirmation of program numbers eg. up to 14 Traditional Owners organisations and NT majority owned Aboriginal businesses.</li> <li>• Key program outcomes and insights.</li> </ul>	01/05/2025	\$0.700m
The Northern Territory iconic drive route Aboriginal cultural tourism opportunities project.	Delivery of a factual and evidence based report that provides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A preliminary gap analysis, addressing current knowledge gaps and identifying potential opportunities</li> <li>• Identify one route or a group of communities based on matched characteristics (infrastructure, existing tourism product, ease of access, services for tourists etc.) as a pilot for the implementation of stage 2</li> <li>• Develop the planning and scope for stage 2 business/product development considerations.</li> </ul>	01/05/2024	\$0.050m
	Delivery of a program of community visits that inspire, educate, identify and support Aboriginal communities to develop their own tourism experiences and products including providing aligned business development and product development support and grants. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key program outcomes and insights</li> </ul>	01/05/2025	\$0.225m

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirmation of communities including Traditional Owner Organisations, NT majority owned Aboriginal businesses and organisations and NT based Aboriginal Territorians engaged in the project.</li> </ul>		
<p>Aboriginal Territorians supported to participate in the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal Tourism Forum, Alice Springs</li> <li>Australian Tourism Conference, Darwin/Towards Tourism 2030, Darwin or Alice Springs</li> </ul>	<p>Aboriginal Territorians supported to participate in the Aboriginal Tourism Forum, Alice Springs - Wed, 15 Nov 2023: co-investment amount \$0.045m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Records EOI process and attendance of 35 Aboriginal tourism businesses and NT based Aboriginal Territorians with tourism interests with representation from all Northern Territory regions</li> </ul> <p>Aboriginal Territorians supported to participate in the inaugural Australian Tourism Conference, proposed to be held in March 2024 in Darwin (TBC) or the Towards Tourism 2030 Conference being held in February 2024 in Darwin or Alice Springs: co-investment amount \$0.015m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Records EOI process and attendance of 15 to 25 Aboriginal tourism operators with representation from all Northern Territory regions</li> </ul>	01/05/2024	\$0.060m
<p>Aboriginal Territorians supported to participate in the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Australian Indigenous Tourism Conference</li> <li>World Indigenous Business Forum Albuquerque New Mexico</li> <li>Aboriginal Tourism Forum, Darwin</li> <li>World Indigenous Tourism Summit – 2025</li> </ul>	<p>Aboriginal Territorians supported to participate in the Australian Indigenous Tourism Conference, location (TBC) – October, 2024: co-investment amount \$0.0075m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Records EOI process and attendance of 4 to 6 Aboriginal tourism businesses with representation from different Northern Territory regions.</li> </ul> <p>Aboriginal Territorians supported to participate in the World Indigenous Business Forum Albuquerque New Mexico - October, 2024: co-investment amount \$0.0225m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Records EOI process and attendance of 5 to 7 Aboriginal tourism businesses with representation from different Northern Territory regions.</li> </ul> <p>Aboriginal Territorians supported to participate in the Aboriginal Tourism Forum, Darwin – 2024/2025 (dates tbc): co-investment amount \$0.045m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Records EOI process and attendance of 40 Aboriginal tourism businesses with representation from all Northern Territory regions.</li> </ul> <p>Aboriginal Territorians supported to participate in the World Indigenous Tourism Summit – 2025 (location and date tbc): co-investment amount \$0.015m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Records EOI process and attendance of 4 to 6 Aboriginal tourism businesses with representation from different Northern Territory regions.</li> </ul>	01/05/2025	\$0.090m

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this schedule as follows:

**Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth  
of Australia by**



**The Honourable Linda Burney MP**  
Minister for Indigenous Australians  
3 December 2023

**Signed for and on behalf of the  
State of Northern Territory by**



**The Honourable Joel Bowden MP**  
Minister for Tourism and Hospitality.  
[Day] [Month] [Year]

**17 JAN 2024**

# Strategic Indigenous Tourism Projects

FEDERATION FUNDING AGREEMENT – AFFORDABLE HOUSING,  
COMMUNITY SERVICES AND OTHER

## Statement of Strategic Intent

This statement takes into account the priority reforms, socio-economic targets and outcomes set out in the [National Agreement on Closing the Gap](#):

*Strategic Indigenous Tourism Projects funding will stimulate and strengthen the economic participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities in the Visitor Economy (the Australian tourism industry).*

*Strategic co-investments will be delivered in partnership with State and Territory governments targeting projects which increase the supply of Indigenous tourism experiences and/or create supply chain opportunities for Indigenous tourism businesses and organisations, and which will deliver long-term economic benefits to the Indigenous tourism sector in each state and territory.*

*The selection of projects (for co-investment) will be directly informed by the Indigenous tourism sector (i.e. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people) with governments taking a place-based approach that recognises each jurisdiction's unique Indigenous tourism opportunities and investment needs.*

*Ministerial approval is required for co-investment of selected projects.*

Investment Principles	
The purpose of the <i>Strategic Indigenous Tourism Projects</i> funding is to stimulate investment in strategic projects that contribute to building a tourism ecosystem, and that will deliver long-term benefits to the Indigenous tourism sector in each State and Territory. Eligible projects will be identified in line with the following investment principles:	
1	States and Territories must work in partnership with the local community and traditional owners to identify strategic projects for funding under this measure.
2	States and Territories must demonstrate how identified projects align with relevant State or Territory strategies for the development of Indigenous tourism.
3	States or Territories must match or exceed the Australian Government funding contribution.
4	Projects must generate tourism business development, supply chain opportunities or economic participation outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and communities.
5	Projects must have a plan for sustainability after Commonwealth funding ceases, either as self-sustainable or through a commitment of ongoing State or Territory funding.
6	Commonwealth funding is intended to complement (not displace) State or Territory funding for Indigenous tourism projects. Funding must not be used for marketing, promotion or other overhead expenditures that would normally be incurred by the funding parties.
7	Projects must demonstrate a sound business case for investment, and evidence of demand (or identified need) for the tourism product, service or experience.
8	Projects must demonstrate value-for-money, and a positive return on the Commonwealth's investment.