

Strategic Indigenous Tourism Projects

FEDERATION FUNDING AGREEMENT – Affordable Housing, Community Services and Other

Table 1: Formalities and operation of schedule	
Parties	Commonwealth New South Wales
Duration	This Schedule is expected to expire on 30 June 2027.
Purpose	<p>This Schedule supports the delivery of the 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 New South Wales Government, recognising each jurisdiction's unique Indigenous tourism opportunities and investment needs.</p> <p>Suitable projects have been identified and 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 the 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 New South Wales Governments recognise they have a mutual interest in improving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and need to work together to achieve those outcomes.</p>

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<p>Estimated financial contributions</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="392 248 922 331">Table</th> <th data-bbox="922 248 1086 331">2025-26 (\$m)</th> <th data-bbox="1086 248 1251 331">2026-27 (\$m)</th> <th data-bbox="1251 248 1386 331">Total (\$m)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="392 338 922 376">Estimated total budget</td> <td data-bbox="922 338 1086 376">2.961</td> <td data-bbox="1086 338 1251 376">0.650</td> <td data-bbox="1251 338 1386 376">3.611</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="392 383 922 421"><i>Commonwealth co-investment</i></td> <td data-bbox="922 383 1086 421">1.121</td> <td data-bbox="1086 383 1251 421">0.650</td> <td data-bbox="1251 383 1386 421">1.771</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="392 427 922 510"><i>Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions</i></td> <td data-bbox="922 427 1086 465">1.840</td> <td data-bbox="1086 427 1251 465">-</td> <td data-bbox="1251 427 1386 465">1.840</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="392 539 1386 667">The Commonwealth will provide an estimated total financial contribution to the New South Wales Government of \$1.8 million over two years beginning in 2025-26 in respect of this Schedule.</p> <p data-bbox="392 674 1386 801">The New South Wales Government will provide a minimum financial co-contribution of 50% matched funding or more to support the delivery of projects identified in this Schedule.</p> <p data-bbox="392 808 1386 891">Total project costs may be met with funding sourced from the public or private sector, or a combination of both.</p> <p data-bbox="392 898 1386 1025">Further details on the Commonwealth and New South Wales estimated financial contributions for the implementation of this Schedule are set in the table above.</p>	Table	2025-26 (\$m)	2026-27 (\$m)	Total (\$m)	Estimated total budget	2.961	0.650	3.611	<i>Commonwealth co-investment</i>	1.121	0.650	1.771	<i>Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions</i>	1.840	-	1.840
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<p>Additional terms</p>	<p data-bbox="392 1043 1386 1294">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 New South Wales Government and other project partners will be responsible for participating in this evaluation.</p> <p data-bbox="392 1301 1386 1462">In addition to the requirements set out in clause 20, the New South Wales Government will be responsible for leading stakeholder engagement and project selection processes and bringing forward proposals for Commonwealth co-investment consideration.</p> <p data-bbox="392 1469 1386 1597">In addition to the requirements set out in clause 21, the New South Wales Government, in consultation with the agreed third-party consent to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="392 1603 1386 1731">a. provide reasonable opportunity for the Commonwealth to contribute to developing communications strategies for all projects with a Commonwealth funding contribution; <li data-bbox="392 1738 1386 1865">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 <li data-bbox="392 1872 1386 1951">c. the joint announcement of all projects under this Schedule, unless otherwise agreed by the Commonwealth. 																

Table 1A: New South Wales – Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary			
Outcome	Performance milestones and output	Report due	Payment
The Aboriginal Tour Guide 5-day Pathway Training Program	<p>Provision and Commonwealth acceptance of a report with details on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Between 100 - 200 community members trained and readily employed to be Aboriginal tour guides for NSW National Parkes and Wildlife Service (NPWS) or private Aboriginal tour businesses licensed by NPWS. <p>Schedule for delivery of the Step 5 – The Aboriginal Tour Guide 5-day Pathway Training as part of the Aboriginal Discovery eight step best practice model.</p>	30 April 2026	\$490,000
The Aboriginal Tour Guide 5-day Pathway Training Program	<p>Provision and Commonwealth acceptance of a report with details on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the number of community members trained and readily employed to be Aboriginal tour guides for NPWS or private Aboriginal tour businesses licensed by NPWS between 100 and 200, including the number of newly trained members. Between 100 - 200 community members trained and readily employed to be Aboriginal tour guides for NPWS or private Aboriginal tour businesses licensed by NPWS. <p>Schedule for delivery of the Step 5 – The Aboriginal Tour Guide 5-day Pathway Training as part of the Aboriginal Discovery eight step best practice model.</p>	30 June 2026	N/A
Aboriginal Experiences and Events in NSW Research Project	<p>Provision and Commonwealth acceptance of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research report, with interim findings, into the size and scope of Aboriginal visitor experiences in NSW and the key opportunities and barriers for development. 	30 April 2026	\$200,000

<p>Evidence of research procurement plan and request for quote including project scope and deliverables.</p>	<p>Provision and Commonwealth acceptance of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final research report with the size and scope of Aboriginal visitor experiences in NSW and the key opportunities and barriers for development. 	<p>30 June 2026</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Evidence of research supplier contract and project commencement.</p>	<p>Provision and Commonwealth acceptance of a report with details of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved online booking and distribution capability for Aboriginal experience providers 	<p>30 April 2026</p>	<p>\$75,000</p>
<p>Evidence of procurement plan and request for quote, including project scope and deliverables.</p>	<p>Provision and Commonwealth acceptance of a report with details of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved online booking and distribution capability for Aboriginal experience providers 	<p>30 June 2026</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Evidence of Aboriginal businesses successfully onboarded to the Aboriginal Online Booking Capability initiative.</p>	<p>Provision and Commonwealth acceptance of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve perception of Sydney and NSW as an Aboriginal cultural destination and increase cultural employment opportunities for NSW artists, performers and food suppliers. 	<p>30 April 2026</p>	<p>\$50,000</p>
<p>Evidence of event marketing plan including NSW supplier engagement approach.</p>			

The National Indigenous Art Fair project	Provision and Commonwealth acceptance of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve perception of Sydney and NSW as an Aboriginal cultural destination and increase cultural employment opportunities for NSW artists, performers and food suppliers. 	30 June 2026	N/A
Aboriginal Trade Event (ATE) Support	Evidence of event marketing implementation. Provision and Commonwealth acceptance of a project plan to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise presence of NSW Aboriginal experience providers as sellers at ATE and Destination NSW travel trade events in 2025/26 	30 April 2026	\$46,250
Aboriginal Trade Event (ATE) Support	Evidence of application documentation and guidelines. Provision and Commonwealth acceptance of a progress report on the implementation of the project plan to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise presence of NSW Aboriginal experience providers as sellers at ATE and Destination NSW travel trade events in 2025/26. 	30 June 2026	N/A
Australian Indigenous Tourism Conference (AITC) Support	Evidence of successful participants supported to attend ATE26 and Destination NSW trade events. Provision and Commonwealth acceptance of a project plan to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise presence of NSW Aboriginal experience providers at AITC 26. 	30 April 2026	\$60,000
Australian Indigenous Tourism Conference (AITC) Support	Evidence of contract with event organiser confirming sponsorship. Provision and Commonwealth acceptance of a progress report on the implementation of the project plan to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise presence of NSW Aboriginal experience providers at the AITC 26 	30 June 2026	N/A

	<p>Evidence of live application form and commenced industry communications.</p>	
<p>Aboriginal Cultural Arts Tourism Fund</p>	<p>Provision and Commonwealth acceptance of a plan to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create opportunities to strengthen First Nations artists, organisations and communities prioritising activities that improve accessibility and participation for audiences, generate meaningful career opportunities for Aboriginal tourism businesses and enterprises, and open new economic opportunities for creative practitioners entering the Cultural Tourism sector. 	<p>30 April 2026</p> <p>\$200,000</p>
	<p>Evidence of draft program logic.</p>	
<p>Aboriginal Cultural Arts Tourism Fund</p>	<p>Provision and Commonwealth acceptance of a progress report on the plan to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create opportunities to strengthen First Nations artists, organisations and communities prioritising activities that improve accessibility and participation for audiences, generate meaningful career opportunities for Aboriginal tourism businesses and enterprises, and open new economic opportunities for creative practitioners entering the Cultural Tourism sector. 	<p>30 June 2026</p> <p>N/A</p>
	<p>Evidence of draft program guidelines.</p>	

<p>The Aboriginal Tour Guide 5-day Pathway Training Program</p>	<p>Provision and Commonwealth acceptance of a report with details on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the number of community members trained and readily employed to be Aboriginal tour guides for NPWS or private Aboriginal tour businesses licensed by NPWS between 100 and 200, including the number of newly trained members. Between 100 - 200 community members trained and readily employed to be Aboriginal tour guides for NPWS or private Aboriginal tour businesses licensed by NPWS. <p>Schedule for delivery of the Step 5 – The Aboriginal Tour Guide 5-day Pathway Training as part of the Aboriginal Discovery eight step best practice model.</p>	<p>31 July 2026</p>	<p>\$650,000</p>
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The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this schedule as follows:

Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by

Senator the Hon. Malarndirri McCarthy
Minister for Indigenous Australians

07 / 04 / 2026

Signed for and on behalf of the State or Territory by

The Hon. Stephen Kamper
Minister for Jobs and Tourism

12 / 5 / 2026

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.

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.