Indigenous Economic Development In the Northern Territory
OFFICE OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

Michael Chiodo
Chief Executive Officer
Office of Aboriginal Affairs
Department of Local Government & Community Services and Office of Aboriginal Affairs
2015
Our vision is for Aboriginal Territorians to be empowered to participate in the Territory economy, while being supported to maintain their strong connections to their lands and their culture.
Office of Aboriginal Affairs

Created in March 2015, Reporting to the Chief Minister

- Remote Contracting Policy
- Community Champions Program
- Monitoring & Evaluation Framework
Office of Aboriginal Affairs

- Whole of Government Coordination
- Indigenous Business Development
- First Circles
- Local Authorities
Economic Development

NT remote economic development is about providing motivated Aboriginal people with a hand up and not a hand out.

- Create opportunities for Aboriginal people to achieve greater control over their resources
- Maximise resources
- Build an environment that supports sustainable business
- Increase local Aboriginal employment
- Grow financial wealth (Community Wealth)
Northern Territory population – 245,079 (June 2014)
Aboriginal people total 36,000 (estimate)
2/3 of Territory Aboriginal people live in remote towns and homelands/outstations

4 regional centres
96 major & minor communities
Over 500 homelands

The Territory has the 3rd largest land area of the States/Territories totalling 1,349,129 km² 50% Aboriginal freehold (ALRA)
90% of coastline controlled by Aboriginal people (Blue Mud bay)

Geographically diverse - from coastal tropics to arid desert

Infrastructure and essential services deficit in remote areas
Economic Development

NT remote economic development is about providing motivated Aboriginal people with a hand up and not a hand out.

- Create opportunities for Aboriginal people to achieve greater control over their resources
- Maximise resources
- Build an environment that supports sustainable business
- Increase local Aboriginal employment
- Grow financial wealth (Community Wealth)
Economic development should, among other things, strive to improve peoples' lives.

What does economic development mean to Aboriginal people?

- Welfare dependency shift
- Jobs
- Home ownership
- A future for their children
- Utilisation of land for business enterprise
- Maintaining control of development
Creation of the Office of Aboriginal Affairs

- Focus on economic development and job creation in remote and regional areas.
- Reporting to cabinet on employment and development targets of the Remote Contracting Policy twice a year.
- Delivery of an Aboriginal Affairs Strategy with an internal strategic target framework.
Capitalising on Remote Assets

- Aboriginal ownership of 85 percent of the coastline and 50 percent of the land
- Potential of a remote workforce - investing in human capital that stays in the Territory
- Aboriginal knowledge
Targeted Procurement

The Remote Contracting Policy

This policy supports remote economies and communities via three key actions:

- Setting employment and business development targets.
- Implementing new contract planning requirements.
- Providing professional services support to local Aboriginal
The Remote Contracting Policy will:

- Build an environment that supports sustainable business
- Increase local Aboriginal employment
- Grow financial wealth (Community Wealth) and independence
How it will work

- Identification of the 5 year pipeline
- Targeted Procurement
- Register of Aboriginal Enterprises and organisations
- Joint Ventures
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Employment</strong></td>
<td>Supporting 2000 private sector Aboriginal jobs</td>
<td>1000 by provisional sum contract requirement</td>
<td>Approx. 100</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1000 by Aboriginal business contracting to government or community sectors</td>
<td>Approx. 100</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Business Development</strong></td>
<td>Open and select tender (¹)</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Typically awarding of minor repairs and maintenance contracts on essential services, housing and transport assets to local Aboriginal businesses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Open tender</td>
<td>Minimum 5 per year</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tender response must demonstrate Joint Venture with local Aboriginal business for contract over $5 million</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tropical Cyclone Lam

- Four major communities & many homelands affected.
- Declared natural disaster area.
- Power, water, sewerage & housing damaged.
- Widespread damage to community infrastructure.
- Over 100 houses destroyed, over 200 more damaged.
- In excess of $80 million in damage
- Redevelopment phase – Economic opportunities.
“The ill winds of Tropical Cyclone Lam and Nathan have been the catalyst for most stakeholders to seek to re-design the future – away from passive welfare to one on training and sustainable employment.”

Bob Beadman and Mavis Danangbarr Director Reconstruction and Community Development
“When introducing new ways of delivering services, please don’t ask us to jump into your motorboat and drive at your speed. We invite you to join us in our canoe and paddle at our speed.”

Mavis Danangbarr – Senior Traditional Owner Galiwin’ku
Thank you

Questions?