

ACT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AGREEMENT 2019-2028

Delivering equitable outcomes for
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

PHASE TWO FOCUS AREA ACTION PLAN

July 2022 – December 2024

FOCUS AREA:

Community Leadership

QUALITY LIFE OUTCOME:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a strong voice, are decision makers on issues that impact them and lead in the achievement of positive life outcomes.

WE WILL ACHIEVE THIS OUTCOME BY FOCUSING ON:

- Traditional Custodians rights and responsibilities to care for Country and to maintain their distinctive cultural, spiritual, physical, and economic relationship with their land and waters will be embedded in legislation and formal agreements.
- The cultural wellbeing of Traditional Custodians in areas of languages; cultural practices; land and waters; and access to culturally relevant communications.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples having a strong voice within government decision-making at the highest level.
- Co-designing with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in developing community led solutions, providing advice and guidance to government, and contributing to government processes.

CLOSING THE GAP TARGETS

National Priority Reform Area One: *Formal Partnerships and Shared Decision Making (PR1)*

- There will be formal partnership arrangements to support Closing the Gap in place between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and governments in each state and territory enshrining agreed joint decision-making roles and responsibilities and where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have chosen their own representatives.
- By 2030, a 15 per cent increase in Australia's landmass subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's legal rights or interest.

ACT HEADLINE INDICATORS

- Increase in decision making role on parks and reserves which make up 70 percent of the ACT land mass.
- Partnerships reviewed (new or existing) meeting the 'strong partnership elements' (as defined in the National Agreement) [Clause 32 and 33]:
 - Partnerships are accountable and representative [as per Clause 32.a].
 - Partnerships having a written formal agreement [as per Clause 32.b].
 - Partnerships having clear provisions of shared decision-making between government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partners [as per Clause 32.c].
 - Adequate funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parties to be partners with governments in formal partnerships [as per Clause 33].
 - Number of partnerships by function, such as decision-making or strategic.



PHASE-BASED QUALITATIVE STATEMENTS

Closing off on Phase One implementation

While some key actions have been completed, work towards many of the Phase One actions in the Community Leadership focus area are still in progress, and this work will continue to be advanced in parallel to implementation of the Phase Two Action Plan. In addition, some actions under Phase One represent commitments to ongoing work. Full detail on the status of the actions under Phase One is available on the Community Services Directorate website under the section on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Policy Development.

Successes of the Agreement that are evident at the end of Phase One includes Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate and the Dhawura Ngunnawal Caring for Country Committee have established 'Namarag', the first special purpose reserve in the Molonglo River Reserve, with its design and construction directed by the Ngunnawal community to celebrate and share Ngunnawal culture.

To be achieved in Phase Two implementation

By the end of Phase Two implementation:

- planning legislation will be amended to recognise the importance of the knowledge, culture, and tradition of the traditional custodians of the land, the Ngunnawal people in the objects of the Act, based on the aspirations of Traditional Custodians.
- access and use of natural and cultural resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples will be available and controlled by Traditional Custodians.
- develop a Framework with NSW for regional collaboration that builds relationships and engagement between Traditional Custodians around access to traditional pathways and management of cultural resources.
- the ACT will establish a co-design process to work towards formal co-management of lands and waters with the Traditional Custodians.
- there will be an increase in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's representation on boards committees and employed across government.
- cultural heritage data held by the ACT Government will be available and controlled by the Traditional Custodians/Representative Aboriginal Organisations.

PRIORITY ACTIONS

New Priority Actions for Phase Two Implementation



Action Number	Priority Actions
1	Co-management agreement for lands and waters relates to Namadgi National Park and that Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate will develop a joint plan of management with the Ngunnawal Traditional Custodians for Namadgi National Park.
2	Co-design and implement a Cultural Resource Plan to enable the sustainable use of natural and cultural resources by Traditional Custodians and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the ACT.
3	Co-design the preparation of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan to conserve and protect cultural heritage across the ACT for public land including health assessments for modified trees.
4	Prepare protocols in collaboration with the United Ngunnawal Elders Council for the naming of places in the ACT with Ngunnawal language to reflect 25,000 years of ongoing cultural connection to this place now known as Canberra and rename key sites as identified by community.
5	Co-design and develop a new Heritage database and website to provide access to heritage.
6	Co-design the <i>ACT Disability Strategy</i> with people with disability to ensure the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with disability are included.
7	Encourage development of community leaders with disability.

STATUS BAR | 10-YEAR PLAN

The status bar provides an at-a-glance timing of Agreement phases highlighting the current Phase.

<p>Phase One Feb 2019 – Jun 2022 Status: Complete</p>	<p>Phase Two Jul 2022 – Dec 2024 Status: In progress</p>	<p>Phase Three Jan 2025 – Dec 2027 Status: Not started</p>	<p>Phase Four Jan 2028 – Dec 2028 Status: Not started</p>
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