



# ACT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AGREEMENT 2019—2028

Delivering equitable outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

## CORE FOCUS AREA: COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

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:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples having a strong voice within government decision-making at the highest level through the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body and other representative bodies.
- Partnering with Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians by recognising their expertise and valuing their traditional knowledge in sustainable management of Country.
- Supporting direct involvement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in developing community led solutions, providing advice and guidance to government, and contributing to government processes.

## TARGETS TO ACHIEVE THIS OUTCOME

These targets are indicative and may be updated following the Closing the Gap refresh.

Targets will be monitored and reviewed periodically throughout the implementation of the *ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019-2028*:

### Closing the Gap

- Land and waters targets are expected to be developed by mid-2019 by all jurisdictions to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' access to, management and ownership of land to which they have had traditional association, or which can assist with their social, cultural and economic development.

### ACT

- Increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on ACT Government boards and committees.
- Increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community led solutions through partnerships, providing advice, and leadership to ACT Government.
- Increase in meaningful engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members by the ACT Government.
- Establish representative Ngunnawal Traditional Custodian voice to provide direction and guidance for the 70 per cent of the ACT managed in parks and reserves by April 2019.



## PRIORITY ACTIONS

The Priority Actions will be progressed during the first 18 months of the Agreement. Further actions will be determined over the course of the Agreement.

- Recognise and use the cultural expertise of traditional custodians to provide leadership in ACT Government initiatives, particularly in the sustainable management of Country.
- Strengthen government processes to drive alignment of policy, legislation and programs to the focus areas of *ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019-2028*.
- Review and embed culturally-appropriate practices into all processes to encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to apply for representation on boards and committees.
- Establish and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander advisory groups across the ACT Government to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a voice in decision making.
- Work jointly with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, the United Ngunnawal Elders Council, other representative bodies and the community to deliver community led solutions.
- Actively work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to contribute to how schools are run, through engagement with school Parent and Community Councils and school boards.
- Continued recognition of the value and need for culturally based healing programs in the ACT.
- Continued commitment to the development of the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm.

