



## Economic and Heritage Participation Plan

# Aboriginal

## Working together for a better future

The Australian Government will maximise economic opportunities and outcomes for local Aboriginal communities near a National Radioactive Waste Management Facility, and work with the local Traditional Owners to protect culture and heritage.

To achieve this the Australian Government will create an **Aboriginal Economic and Heritage Participation Plan**, in consultation with the local community, once a site had been selected for the Facility. This plan will work alongside, and seek to reinforce, the **Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan** that will be developed to manage cultural heritage values both at and around the site.

The construction and operation of the Facility will create a range of business and employment opportunities for locals, including Aboriginal communities around the site.

This factsheet outlines how the Australian Government will develop plans through which

the Aboriginal community near the Facility can maximise benefits by preparing skilled workers, enhanced procurement practices, and build relationships for the construction and operation of the Facility.

This plan will seek to build on the successful partnerships created during the siting phase of the project. So far the project team has successfully collaborated with many members of the Adnyamathanha community, working together to achieve positive outcomes for both parties. During the site characterisation activities at Wallerberdina Station, important work was undertaken by more than 30 individual Aboriginal community members. By utilising their expertise, the department was able to conduct a targeted archaeological survey to ensure that technical investigations did not impact cultural heritage or values. Opportunities will also exist for local Barngarla people if the Facility was to proceed at Napandee or Lyndhurst.

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## Continuing to look after heritage

The Australian Government will allocate up to \$3 million within its Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) to strengthen Indigenous skills training and cultural heritage protection in the successful community.

The IAS is the strategy through which the Australian Government funds and delivers a range of

programmes specifically for Indigenous Australians. The IAS comprises a flexible framework around active involvement of Indigenous Australians in the development and delivery of local solutions.

Local community groups can apply at any time with a proposal that addresses a community need or opportunity, and aligns with the IAS framework.

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## Working with government

### Industry exposure

We understand that many local businesses and contractors in the shortlisted communities are interested in participating in a large scale construction project. To assist the local workforce in making the most of the construction opportunities, the department is currently organising workshops to help introduce local businesses and tradespeople to industry, and prepare for a project of this size.

Events such as the workshops will start the conversation and provide some guidance in explaining how smaller contractors can meet the requirements of, or provide specialist assistance to, larger firms which will manage the construction and development of the Facility. When a site has been selected, this guidance can become more specific and detailed.

### Procurement guidelines

The Australian Government will utilise the existing Indigenous Procurement Policy (IPP) guidelines throughout the procurement of construction and operation of the Facility. This policy is for the purpose of leveraging Commonwealth procurement so that it drives demand for Indigenous goods and services, stimulates Indigenous economic development and grows the Indigenous business sector.

Under the IPP, Commonwealth buyers can purchase directly from Indigenous small to medium enterprises for contracts of any size and value. This is a big advantage for Indigenous businesses, as they do not need to compete in costly and lengthy tender processes, demonstrating value for money through a simpler quote process.

### Case Study: First Grade Recruiting

The Australian Government's IPP is helping Indigenous businesses expand and grow. One example of this is the recruitment company First Grade, which through the IPP has experienced more opportunities to do business with government, and therefore diversify and expand into new service areas.

"The IPP has brought First Grade greater financial security and sustainability by being able to diversify our services," Managing Director Brad Watts said.

"The policy has made us think about what our true value is as a business, and what our service offering could be. There is potential for us to be pigeon-holed as a recruitment and labour hire business. However, we've found departments very open to engaging us beyond this."



This document is part of a series of factsheets providing information on the process to site the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility.

For more information

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