



Australian Government



Coalition
of Peaks



First Nations Economic Partnership

An Agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia and
the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Community - Controlled Peak Organisations and the
First Nations Economic Empowerment Alliance 2025–2030

29 September 2025

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ISBN: 978-1-923278-19-6

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Acknowledgement of Country

The Partners to this Agreement acknowledge and pay respects to First Nations peoples across Australia, who are the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land and waters and of the oldest continuous living culture on Earth. We pay respects to Elders past and present.

The Partners acknowledge that First Nations people's continuing connection to and ownership of Country is a fundamental component to greater economic participation and development and to self-determination.

We thank the First Nations people who have offered their time, experiences and expertise to inform this new Economic Partnership.

Language

In this Economic Partnership, we use the term First Nations to respectfully refer to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first peoples of Australia, recognising their distinct cultural identities, histories, and ongoing connections to Country, community, and culture.

Where an organisation uses the term Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander in its organisation title, or the term is used in published materials, legislation, or data, this language is retained in the Economic Partnership. The term 'Indigenous' is used only where it is necessary for clarity in contrast with non-Indigenous people, or where it reflects the language of existing data sources, frameworks, or published reports. 'Indigenous peoples' is used to refer to Indigenous groups internationally, consistent with the language of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Where we quote or refer to published materials, legislation, or data that use alternative terminology, we retain the original language used in those sources.

We acknowledge the strength and leadership of First Nations peoples and commit to using language that respects cultural identity and self-determination.

This protocol has been agreed by First Nations representatives of the Economic Partnership.

Definitions

In this Economic Partnership, defined terms are:

- **Accountable Ministers** – The Treasurer of Australia and the Minister for Indigenous Australians.
- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Organisation** – An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Organisation delivers services, including land and resource management, that builds the strength and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and people and is:
 - incorporated under relevant legislation and not-for-profit
 - controlled and operated by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people
 - connected to the community, or communities, in which they deliver the services
 - governed by a majority Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander governing body.
- **Alliance** – First Nations Economic Empowerment Alliance.
- **Closing the Gap Agreement** – The National Agreement on Closing the Gap between the Coalition of Peaks, all Australian Governments and the Australian Local Government Association, which took effect on 27 July 2020.
- **Coalition of Peaks** – Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Peak Organisations.
- **Co-Chairs** – One representative nominated by each Founding Partner, responsible for agreeing meeting agendas and papers, overseeing and monitoring the work of the Economic Partnership and co-chairing Economic Partnership meetings.
- **Commonwealth Government** – The Commonwealth of Australia.
- **Drafting Group** – Established to assist in the drafting of Economic Partnership text. The Drafting Group will transition to the Operational Committee upon commencement of the Economic Partnership.
- **Economic Framework** – The First Nations Economic Framework, which is a comprehensive vision for First Nations economic empowerment, which includes priority pillars to drive coordinated action across the Commonwealth Government.
- **Economic Inclusion Zone** – An Economic Inclusion Zone is a place-based initiative that brings together community, government and industry to unlock local potential, expand economic participation, and create opportunities for meaningful employment, enterprise and wealth-building. Each zone is supported by shared decision-making between government and local First Nations representatives, ensuring priorities reflect community aspirations and cultural authority.
- **Economic Partnership Agreement** – This Agreement document on First Nations Economic Empowerment, signed by the Commonwealth Government, the Coalition of Peaks and the Alliance.

- **Economic Partnership** – The First Nations Economic Partnership between the Commonwealth Government, the Coalition of Peaks and the Alliance.
- **Expert** – An individual (without decision-making powers) invited to share their expertise with the Economic Partnership.
- **First Nations Economic Empowerment Working Group** – The Working Group established by Treasury in October 2024, comprising representatives of the Founding Partners.
- **First Nations Organisation (other than an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisation)** – A business, charity, not-for-profit organisation, incorporated under Commonwealth, state or territory legislation, that has at least 51% First Nations ownership and/or directorship and is operated for the benefit of First Nations communities.
- **Immediate Actions** – Economic Partnership priorities for immediate action, to be included in the Workplan.
- **Member** – An organisation (without decision-making powers) invited to participate in the Economic Partnership on a long-term basis to provide policy advice and collaborate on projects.
- **NIAA** – National Indigenous Australians Agency
- **Operational Committee** – Established under the Economic Partnership, comprising representatives of the Founding Partners to support the implementation of the Economic Partnership on strategic administrative matters.
- **Prescribed Bodies Corporate** – Organisations established to hold and manage native title rights and interests on behalf of the native title holders after a determination of native title has been made.
- **Partner** – A signatory to the Economic Partnership, holding decision-making powers. (Founding Partner refers to the original three Partners to the Economic Partnership: The Commonwealth Government, the Coalition of Peaks and the Alliance).
- **Parties** – Partners, Members and Experts working through the Economic Partnership.
- **Traditional Owner Representative Institution** – a Prescribed Body Corporate or, where there is not one, an existing organisation that is representative of Traditional Owners and is either created by (state or Commonwealth) legislation or recognised by (state or Commonwealth) legislation.
- **Treasury** – The Department of the Treasury.
- **UNDRIP** – United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- **Working Groups** – Established by Partners on agreed matters to progress priorities identified in the Workplan and to advance distinct streams of work.
- **Workplan** – Publicly available Annual Workplan detailing how the Partners will identify, achieve and implement the priorities of the Economic Partnership.

Preamble

- 1 The Economic Partnership acknowledges that far greater collective effort is needed to improve economic outcomes for First Nations communities. It affirms the need for a fundamental shift in the design and delivery of economic policy—one that enables First Nations peoples to exercise genuine economic agency and pursue their aspirations on their own terms.
- 2 For tens of thousands of years, First Nations peoples sustained complex economic and trade systems that spanned the Australian continent and reached neighbouring islands. However, the experience of colonisation and its legacy—including dispossession, exclusion from emerging industries, and ongoing structural discrimination—and the economic marginalisation of First Nations peoples, has resulted in a persistent and unacceptable gap in economic outcomes between First Nations Australians and the broader population.
- 3 While First Nations participation in the Australian economy is growing—particularly through the expansion of First Nations-owned and led businesses—significant disparities remain. Employment and income levels continue to lag behind national averages, and many First Nations people face barriers to accessing employment, growing local economies, and leveraging assets and capital to build wealth for future generations. These structural limitations further entrench economic marginalisation and undermine long-term prosperity.
- 4 The Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Peak Organisations (the Coalition of Peaks), the First Nations Economic Empowerment Alliance (the Alliance) and the Commonwealth Government have worked together to scope a new formal partnership on First Nations economic participation and development (the Economic Partnership).
- 5 The Economic Partnership will contribute to the Commonwealth Government’s commitment to the Closing the Gap Agreement, inclusive of the Priority Reforms and closing the gap targets. The Economic Partnership also aligns with the Commonwealth Government’s endorsement of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the UNDRIP), which contains important principles for economic empowerment.
- 6 Partners agree the Economic Partnership must be centred on the strengths of First Nations peoples and communities, and work to translate these strengths into greater economic agency to achieve tangible and sustainable social, cultural and environmental benefits.

Purpose

- 7 The purpose of this Economic Partnership is to advance the economic empowerment and lasting economic security for First Nations peoples, communities and organisations. This will also support increased productivity and economic growth.
- 8 The Economic Partnership establishes a mechanism for the Partners to share in decisions about reforms to First Nations economic policy, built around the ‘strong partnership elements’ of Priority Reform One of the Closing the Gap Agreement.

9 This Agreement sets out:

- a) The Partners of the Economic Partnership.
- b) The scope of decision making and how decisions will be made.
- c) Reporting and accountability arrangements.
- d) Support for the First Nations partners to participate.
- e) How other First Nations representatives and organisations can be involved.

Scope

10 The Economic Partnership will focus on the full range of policy levers available to the Commonwealth Government to support economic empowerment, self-determination, and wealth creation for First Nations peoples, which includes the following:

- a) Strengthening First Nations representation and partnerships in policymaking across the Commonwealth Government, including through regional, place-based partnerships that embed shared decision-making to drive local economies.
- b) Increasing employment and skills development opportunities by expanding thriving First Nations-controlled sectors, supporting business growth, and investing in local care and service economies.
- c) Accelerating the growth and long-term sustainability of First Nations businesses, including improving access to domestic and international markets, affordable capital, tailored investment support and institutional settings.
- d) Reforming training and employment services to ensure they are culturally responsive, community-driven, and deliver sustainable outcomes for First Nations peoples.
- e) Upholding and advancing First Nations rights and interests in land, sea and waterways, including native title and cultural and intellectual property, as economic assets and foundations for prosperity.
- f) Exploring economic opportunities in current and emerging industries, including the clean energy transition to net zero; physical, institutional and financial infrastructure; and other relevant policy areas.
- g) Improving data collection, access and sharing to enable evidence-based decision-making and support First Nations data sovereignty.
- h) Enabling financial independence, economic self-determination and long-term, community-driven economic development for First Nations peoples, including advancing gender equity and the important role of First Nations women in the Australian economy.

- 11 The Economic Partnership will develop initiatives that implement the four Priority Reforms of the Closing the Gap Agreement.
- 12 The Economic Partnership will develop a First Nations Economic Framework (the Economic Framework), in collaboration with a wide range of First Nations stakeholders. The Economic Framework will set out a comprehensive vision for First Nations economic empowerment and include priority pillars to drive coordinated action across the Commonwealth Government.
- 13 The Economic Partnership will complement and support – but not duplicate – other Partnerships (either established or planned) and build on existing economic related initiatives and reforms underway.

Parties and Participation

Partners

- 14 The Economic Partnership, which is to be broad and diverse and reflect different voices and perspectives, is between the following Partners:

a) The Coalition of Peaks

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Peak Organisations across Australia have come together as an act of self-determination to change the way Australian governments work with First Nations people. The Coalition of Peaks is made up of more than 80 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled peak and member organisations representing some 800 organisations. Coalition of Peaks members have their own unique histories, needs, and priorities and share a commitment to legitimate community-controlled representation of communities on matters that are important to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The Coalition of Peaks, and their members, work for and are accountable to our communities, not governments or mainstream institutions. The Coalition of Peaks signed the National Partnership and National Agreement on Closing the Gap with all Australian Governments in 2019 and 2020. The Coalition of Peaks are governed by a public Terms of Reference which also sets out membership criteria. Current membership is listed at Schedule A. Where new Coalition of Peaks members are agreed by the Coalition of Peaks, they will advise the Partners.

b) The Alliance

The First Nations Economic Empowerment Alliance (Alliance) is an association of First Nations-led organisations, Australian Government statutory authorities and First Nations experts with responsibilities and expertise related to First Nations economic rights and interests and research. It was established as an outcome of deliberative dialogues and research led by the Australian National University First Nations Portfolio to advocate for critical economic policy reform to drive an economic self-determination agenda. The Alliance is governed by a public Charter, which also sets out membership criteria. Current membership is listed at Schedule A. Where new members to the Alliance are agreed by the Alliance, they will advise the Partners.

c) The Commonwealth Government

The Commonwealth Government will be represented by The Treasury. The Treasury may agree other Australian Government officials to attend meetings of the Economic Partnership, including the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the National Indigenous Australians Agency. Australian Government representatives will understand the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled and business sectors, have a strong capacity for working with First Nations people and bring expertise in economic participation. The Accountable Ministers are the Treasurer of Australia and the Minister for Indigenous Australians.

- 15 The Partners will develop a mechanism to identify and determine new Partners. Once developed, it will be attached as an addendum to this Agreement.
- 16 The Partners are the decision makers on all matters relating to the Economic Partnership. Decision-making arrangements are set out under the Governance section below.
- 17 Each Partner determines their own representatives. The Partners, by consensus, will agree on the total number of representatives for each partner, ensuring that there is always a majority First Nations representation. The Partners will use best endeavours to ensure continuity of representation over the life of the Economic Partnership.

Members and Experts

- 18 Acknowledging the importance of broad consultation, engagement and expertise for effective policy design, and the need for flexibility, the Partners may agree to invite and appoint members to be involved over the longer term in work related to the Economic Partnership.
- 19 The role of Members shall include providing policy advice and collaborating on projects. Members shall be organisations and must have responsibilities or expertise directly relevant to the Purpose and Scope of the Economic Partnership.
- 20 Members will be appointed by a consensus of the Partners to participate in the work of the Economic Partnership including attending meetings on terms agreed by the Partners. Members shall not exercise decision making powers.
- 21 The Partners will develop a mechanism to identify and determine Members. Once developed, it will be attached as an addendum to this Agreement.
- 22 The Partners may invite Experts, including international Experts, to present to the Economic Partnership or undertake work commissioned by the Economic Partnership. Experts shall not exercise any decision-making and may only participate on specific matters as agreed by the Partners.

Additional Participation

First Nations interests

- 23 First Nations communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations, businesses and enterprises, Chambers of Commerce, experts and interested parties across Australia will have an opportunity to be involved through the implementation of the Economic Partnership and in regular engagements that will inform its activities, including through Working Groups.
- 24 In particular, the Partners commit to significant engagements across the country on the development of the Economic Framework, as well as engagements with communities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations and businesses on initiatives of the Economic Partnership. These engagements will be carried out consistent with Priority Reform Three of the Closing the Gap Agreement.
- 25 Where the Economic Partnership considers matters related to the rights of Traditional Owners, including relating to native title, statutory land rights and cultural and intellectual property, affected rights holders and Traditional Owner Representative Institutions will be centrally engaged in discussions and decision making consistent with the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent.

Private and civil sectors

- 26 Acknowledging the contribution that the private and civil sectors can make in supporting the purpose of the Economic Partnership, the Partners, on relevant matters, will engage private and civil sector representatives, including in Working Groups, and the development of the Economic Framework.

Roles and responsibilities

27 Partners are jointly responsible for the following:

- a) Ensuring the strong partnership elements of the Closing the Gap Agreement are embedded in the operations, culture and decisions of the Economic Partnership.
- b) Ensuring that First Nations peoples are fully engaged in the design, implementation and monitoring of the actions of the Economic Partnership.
- c) Bringing their experience, authority and expertise to contribute constructively to the objectives, outcomes and priorities of the Economic Partnership.
- d) Acting in good faith and with a commitment to the collective interests of all First Nations peoples.
- e) Ensuring that the work of the Economic Partnership is guided by the Priority Reforms of the Closing the Gap Agreement and the principles of the UNDRIP.
- f) Agreeing to, implementing and monitoring a Workplan for the Economic Partnership.

28 The Treasury is responsible for the following:

- a) Liaising across relevant Commonwealth Government agencies to bring whole-of-government perspectives and ensure alignment of policies and funding with the Economic Partnership's priorities.
- b) Engaging with relevant Ministers and their offices, including seeking Ministerial consideration of advice, outcomes and proposals arising from the Economic Partnership.
- c) Communicating the work of the Economic Partnership to other agencies and relevant stakeholders and ensure internal accountability mechanisms are in place for Commonwealth Government follow-through on agreed actions.

29 The First Nations representatives are responsible for the following:

- a) Ensuring the perspectives, lived experiences, aspirations, and expertise of First Nations people, communities and organisations to inform all aspects of the Economic Partnership's work.
- b) Working collaboratively to build understanding, legitimacy and support for the Economic Partnership within First Nations communities and organisations across Australia.
- c) Acting in good faith with a commitment to inclusive representation and the collective interests of First Nations peoples, including those not directly represented within their own memberships and networks.

Economic Partnership Reforms and Coordination of Working Groups

- 30 The Partners will develop and progress an agreed set of reforms to support First Nations economic empowerment. These efforts will be operationalised and reflected through a Workplan and structured Working Groups.

Immediate Actions

- 31 The Partners agree to focus on progressing immediate priorities for First Nations economic empowerment identified in the 2024 community engagements (led by the Coalition of Peaks and supported by Treasury), and by the First Nations Economic Empowerment Working Group.
- 32 Selected priorities will be advanced immediately and will also be reflected in the first Annual Workplan (for clarity, the Annual Workplan will not be limited to Immediate Actions).
- 33 The Economic Partnership will, as a first priority, design an inclusive and transparent approach to developing the Economic Framework. This approach will include the development of a discussion paper and involve deep engagement with First Nations people and organisations and mainstream financial institutions and businesses. The approach will be made public and include a timeline for completion of the Economic Framework.
- 34 The Economic Partnership commits to exploring these identified immediate priority actions, noting implementation of some actions may require Ministerial or Cabinet-level decision-making:
 - a) Establishing a First Nations investment and finance council—chaired and majority-led by First Nations experts—to consider opportunities to improve investment mechanisms, access to capital, including the improved role of Australia’s Specialist Investment Vehicles (SIVs), with particular reference to:
 - i) clear First Nations economic performance targets, such as jobs created, equity investments and procurement value;
 - ii) strengthening the SIVs framework by building a robust investment pipeline, and considering enabling legislation;
 - iii) the provision of capacity-building tools; and
 - iv) designing impact-measurement frameworks through accessing First Nations expertise.
 - b) Supporting capacity building within First Nations organisations through improved data governance practices in line with Indigenous data sovereignty.
 - c) Developing an improved funding package for Prescribed Bodies Corporate and other Traditional Owner Representative Institutions.

- d) Establishing Economic Inclusion Zones led by local First Nations organisations to develop and implement employment, education and training initiatives; identify and remove systemic policy and program barriers; deploy flexible and pooled funding; and strengthen economic participation in sectors such as the care economy, infrastructure and maintenance, cultural enterprises, and land and water management.
 - e) Through new or existing measures, design funded programs to grow secure employment and career pathways for First Nations people in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector, supporting transitions from unemployment, achieving wage parity, creating new job streams, investing in professional development, and prioritising community-led service delivery in emerging local economies, including the care economy.
 - f) Strengthening the outcomes and accountability of the Commonwealth's Indigenous Procurement Policy, including implementation of the agreed recommendations from the June 2025 Australian National Audit Office report *Targets for Minimum Indigenous Employment or Supply Use in Major Australian Government Procurements—Follow-up*.
- 35 The Partners recognise that a collective effort is needed to drive change and improve economic outcomes for First Nations Australians and commit to engaging the private sector, state and territory governments and others to consider ways they can advance First Nations economic empowerment.

Annual Workplan

- 36 The Partners will maintain an Annual Workplan to guide the implementation of reform priorities. The Workplan will:
- a) Be developed by the Operational Committee for consideration by the Partners at its first meeting.
 - b) Set out objectives, key deliverables, timelines, performance measures, and responsible Parties for each activity.
 - c) Be reviewed and updated at each Economic Partnership meeting.
 - d) Be agreed by consensus.
 - e) Be made publicly available.
- 37 The first Annual Workplan will include identified immediate priority actions.
- 38 Once developed, the Workplan will be attached as an addendum to this Agreement.

Working Groups to progress the Annual Workplan

- 39 To progress the priorities identified in the Workplan and to advance distinct streams of work under the Partnership, the Partners will establish Working Groups on agreed matters. These will:
- a) Be created by agreement of the Partners, who will agree a Commonwealth Government and First Nations Partner Co-Chair for each Working Group.
 - b) Be governed by Terms of Reference agreed by the Partners.
 - c) Where appropriate, include First Nations representatives from across the country and other external stakeholders, including industry and academic institutions.
 - d) Make policy recommendations to the Economic Partnership consistent with agreed Terms of Reference.
- 40 Once developed, Working Group Terms of Reference will be attached as an addendum to this Agreement.

Coordination and Accountability

- 41 To ensure coherence across Working Groups, the following will apply.
- a) All Working Groups will be accountable to the Economic Partnership and operate under its strategic direction.
 - b) The Partners will maintain oversight of interdependencies between Working Groups to maximise alignment and prevent duplication.

Economic Partnership Governance

- 42 The Partners agree that the Economic Partnership will embody the strong partnership elements set out in the Closing the Gap Agreement.

Decision Making

- 43 The Partners are the decision-makers on all matters relating to the Economic Partnership.
- 44 Consistent with Priority Reform One of the Closing the Gap Agreement, decisions will be made by consensus, that is, where there is general agreement on issues and where:
- a) The voices of First Nations representatives hold as much weight as those of the Government.
 - b) Matters for decision are in terms that are easily understood by all Partners and where there is enough information and time to understand the implications of the decision.
 - c) The meeting Co-Chairs will work actively to ensure that First Nations positions are properly heard and identify general agreement on matters.
 - d) Partners have access to the same data and information, in an easily accessible format, on which any decisions are made.
 - e) First Nations representatives can speak without fear of reprisals or repercussions.
- 45 First Nations representatives will have the opportunity to engage with or speak directly with relevant Ministers prior to any major decisions being made that impacts the work or advice of the Economic Partnership.
- 46 Where matters under consideration require Ministerial or Cabinet-level decision-making, Commonwealth Government representatives will explain the relevant approval pathways. Efforts will be made to provide as much transparency as possible around how Economic Partnership recommendations will be considered in these processes.
- 47 Where possible Commonwealth Government decisions relate to funding, policies, or programs affecting First Nations peoples, the rationale for those decisions—including where recommendations are not adopted—will be communicated clearly to the Economic Partnership.
- 48 The Commonwealth Treasurer and the Minister for Indigenous Australians, as the Accountable Ministers for the Economic Partnership, will meet with the First Nations representatives of the Economic Partnership at least once annually to review progress, discuss emerging priorities, and support strong and enduring collaboration between the Commonwealth Government and First Nations representatives.

Meetings

- 49 The Partners will meet between four and six times per calendar year.
- 50 Partners will confirm their attendance prior to meetings.
- 51 For there to be a quorum, at least one representative of each Partner must be present for the entire meeting.
- 52 The Partners agree that continuity of membership and attendance at meetings is critical to the effective functioning of the Economic Partnership.

Leadership and Chairing

- 53 The Partners will nominate their own lead representative as a Co-Chair, who will be responsible for agreeing meeting agendas and papers, chairing meetings, and overseeing and monitoring the work of the Economic Partnership.
- 54 Each meeting of the Economic Partnership will be chaired by a Co-Chair on a rotating basis.
- 55 The Partner Co-Chairs will jointly give direction to the Secretariat and the Operational Committee.

Operational and Secretariat arrangements

- 56 The Drafting Group will transition to an Operational Committee at the commencement of the Economic Partnership. The Operational Committee will operate under the direction of the Partners to assist with strategic administrative matters related to the Partnership and complement the Secretariat. It will:
 - a) Be comprised of up to two representatives from each Partner at the officer level and a representative from the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) – in its capacity as Secretariat.
 - b) Support the functioning of the Economic Partnership, including developing meeting papers to support decision making of the Partners, Workplan development, and preparing draft communiqués and public materials of the Economic Partnership.
 - c) Monitor delivery of the Workplan and prepare progress updates for the Partners.
 - d) Consider other matters as directed by the Partners.
- 57 The Secretariat function will be performed by NIAA until 30 June 2026. The Partners will provide consensus advice prior to 30 June 2026 to the Commonwealth Government on whether NIAA should continue or to appoint a new body to perform secretariat functions.
- 58 The Secretariat does not have decision making functions and reports to the Partner Co-Chairs.

59 Functions of the Secretariat include:

- a) Sending meeting invitations (in line with the Annual Workplan).
- b) Organising meetings including associated bookings.
- c) Collating and circulating papers in preparation for each Economic Partnership meeting (papers to be circulated at least 5 working days before each Economic Partnership meeting).
- d) Preparing and circulating minutes of Economic Partnership meetings and the Operational Committee.
- e) Maintaining and updating Economic Partnership information, including publicly available resources, such as the Workplan and reports.
- f) Maintaining conflicts of interests register.

Data and information sharing

- 60 The Partners recognise that data and information sharing is critical to informed decision-making by the Economic Partnership and should be consistent with the principles of Indigenous data sovereignty.
- 61 In line with their commitments to Priority Reform Four, the Commonwealth Government representatives will collect, analyse and share data and information relevant to economic participation and development with the Partners. Alternatively, data collection and analysis may also be undertaken or commissioned.
- 62 This may include data and information specifically requested by the Partners at meetings. Any requests will be actioned within a reasonable timeframe and to the extent possible.
- 63 Where appropriate, the Commonwealth Government will also publish data underpinning decisions of the Economic Partnership.

Confidentiality

- 64 The Partners agree that Economic Partnership discussions will remain confidential. Meeting outcomes and Economic Partnership decisions should be published consistent with Clause 70.
- 65 Unless otherwise agreed by the Partners, meeting papers and ancillary working documents of the Economic Partnership can be shared by the Partners with their members to support their governance processes and representation in the Economic Partnership.

Conflict of Interests

- 66 All Partners, Members and Experts (and their personnel) are expected to conduct themselves with integrity, transparency, and in the best interests of the Economic Partnership. All participants will take reasonable steps to avoid any actual, perceived, or potential conflicts of interest in connection with Economic Partnership business.
- 67 A conflict of interest may arise where personal, professional, organisational, or financial interests—or those of their close associates—could improperly influence, or be seen to influence, their duties or contributions to the Economic Partnership.
- 68 Where a conflict of interest is identified, Parties must:
- a) Disclose the nature of the conflict to the Partner Co-Chairs at the earliest opportunity.
 - b) Provide any relevant details needed for the Partners to assess the implications of the conflict.
 - c) Withdraw from discussion or decision-making on the matter if requested by the Co-Chairs or by agreement of the Economic Partnership.
- 69 The Secretariat will maintain a confidential register of disclosed conflicts of interest and how they are to be managed.

Economic Partnership transparency

- 70 The Partners are committed to ensuring the work of the Economic Partnership is transparent and that key resources and records are publicly available in an easily accessible format, particularly for First Nations peoples. In particular, the Partners agree to publish:
- a) This Agreement.
 - b) The agreed priorities and Workplans and funding allocations of the Economic Partnership.
 - c) Any reports, updates on the Workplans and the annual written update of the Economic Partnership.
 - d) Key decisions or commitments made by the Partners under the Economic Partnership.
 - e) Outcomes of Economic Partnership meetings.

Reporting

- 71 The Partners will report to the Accountable Ministers and provide an annual written update. Other relevant Ministers will be copied into the annual written update as needed.
- 72 The Accountable Ministers will be invited by the Economic Partnership Co-Chairs to attend a meeting of the Economic Partnership at least annually to hear and discuss progress on the work of the Economic Partnership.
- 73 The First Nations Partners will meet with the Treasurer and the Minister for Indigenous Australians, without the Commonwealth Government Partner, once a year, to discuss progress under the Economic Partnership.

Resourcing

- 74 Consistent with Priority Reform One of the Closing the Gap Agreement, the Partners acknowledge that the First Nations representatives need to be provided with adequate and ongoing financial support to enable them to engage and share in decision-making as equal partners.
- 75 This includes funding for the Partners to:
 - a) Prepare for and attend Economic Partnership meetings.
 - b) Engage independent policy advice.
 - c) Meet independently of the Commonwealth Government to determine their own policy positions.
 - d) Support strengthened governance between and across First Nations organisations and Partners.
 - e) Engage with and seek advice from First Nations peoples from all relevant groups within affected communities.
- 76 The First Nations Partners will separately prepare a submission in partnership with The Treasury for a five-year funding agreement to support their participation in the Economic Partnership. This will be drawn from the allocated Economic Partnership funding and considered for the commencement of the Economic Partnership. It will be separate to any current funding for First Nations Partners as this is a new activity not covered by existing arrangements. Additional funding relating to implementation or Working Groups will be determined separately.
- 77 The Partners acknowledge that First Nations Representatives in Working Groups also need to be provided with adequate financial support to be able to engage.
- 78 The Partners agree to develop an annual budget for the Workplan for consideration by Government.

Term

- 79 The Partners agree that sustained effort will be required to improve the economic participation and self-determination of First Nations people.
- 80 The Economic Partnership will commence on 29 September 2025 and be in place until 30 June 2030. The Economic Partnership can be extended by agreement between the Partners.

Review

- 81 The Partners agree to engage two independent reviews of the Economic Partnership: for the mid-phase of the Economic Partnership and to assist in determining the next phase of the Economic Partnership. The reviews will examine how the Partners are working together and what has been achieved through the Economic Partnership.
- 82 The Partners will jointly agree the scope of the reviews.
- 83 The costs of the reviews will be met by the Commonwealth Government (through the allocated Economic Partnership funding) and the reviews will be made public after consideration by the Partners.

Dispute resolution

- 84 The Partners will act in good faith, in the spirit of cooperation and mutual trust, to resolve any difficulties or misunderstandings under the Economic Partnership.
- 85 In the first instance, disputes will be referred to the Partner Co-Chairs, and the Treasury Secretary.
- 86 If the matter cannot be resolved, the Partners may convene a meeting of the Accountable Ministers (and other relevant Ministers) and Partners for resolution.

Amendment

- 87 The Partners intend the Economic Partnership to be a living arrangement where, once signed, this Agreement can be reviewed and updated to reflect shared priorities, progress and feedback from First Nations communities and organisations.
- 88 This Agreement may be amended by the Partners at any time by agreement in writing.
- 89 Amendments to this Agreement will also be considered following the mid-phase review.

Signatories

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia



Dr Jim Chalmers MP
Treasurer



Senator Malarndirri McCarthy
Minister for Indigenous Australians

On behalf of the Coalition of Peaks



Patricia Turner AM
Lead Convener
Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Community-Controlled Peak Organisations

On behalf of the Alliance



Professor Peter Yu AM
Chair
First Nations Economic Empowerment Alliance

Schedule A—Partnership representation

Coalition of Peaks Members

<https://www.coalitionofpeaks.org.au/>

National Members

- Alliance of First Nations' Independent Education & Training Providers
- Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association
- Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association
- Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives
- First Languages Australia
- First Nations Advocates Against Family Violence
- First Nations Media Australia
- First Peoples Disability Network
- Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia Limited
- Indigenous Allied Health Australia
- Lowitja Institute
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ageing and Aged Care Council
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Corporation
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Association
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services
- National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
- National Native Title Council
- SNAICC – National Voice for Our Children
- The Healing Foundation

Members in the Northern Territory

- Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory
- Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory

- Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory
- Anindilyakwa Land Council
- Central Land Council
- North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency
- Northern Land Council
- Northern Territory Indigenous Business Network
- Tiwi Land Council

Member in Tasmania

- Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre

Members in New South Wales

- NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations
- Aboriginal Legal Services (NSW/ACT)
- BlaQ Aboriginal Corporation
- First Peoples Disability Network
- LinkUp NSW
- NSW Aboriginal Land Council
- NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group
- NSW Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council
- NSW Child, Family and Community Peak Aboriginal Corporation
- Aboriginal Culture, Heritage and Arts Association

Members in Victoria

- Ngaweeyan Maar-oo
- Aboriginal Community Elders Service
- Aboriginal Housing Victoria
- Federation of Victorian Traditional Owners Corporations
- Koorie Youth Council
- Loddon Mallee Aboriginal Reference Group
- Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency
- Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Association Ltd

- Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages
- Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated
- Victorian Aboriginal Health Service
- Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service
- Victorian Aborigines Advancement League

Members in Queensland

- Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Coalition
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (Qld) Ltd
- Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council
- Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak Limited
- Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Services

Members in South Australia

- South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Network
- Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council
- Aboriginal Family Support Services
- Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia
- Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement
- Aboriginal Sobriety Group
- Family Violence Legal Services Aboriginal Corporation
- First Nations of South Australia Aboriginal Corporation
- InComPro
- Kura Yerlo
- KWY Aboriginal Corporation
- Mobile Language Team—University of Adelaide
- Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation
- Ngarrindjeri Ruwe Empowered Communities
- Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council
- Nunga Mi:Minar
- Nunkuwarrin Yunti
- Nunyara Aboriginal Health Service

- Pangula Mannamurna Aboriginal Corporation
- Port Lincoln Aboriginal Health Service
- South Australian Native Title Services
- South Australian Aboriginal Education and Training Consultative Council
- South Australian Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation
- Tauondi Aboriginal College

Members in Western Australia

- Council of Aboriginal Services Western Australia
- Aboriginal Health Council Western Australia

Member in the Australian Capital Territory

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body

Alliance Members

<https://firstnationsalliance.org.au/>

General Members

- First Australians Capital
- National Native Title Council
- First Nations Clean Energy Network
- Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation
- First Nations Foundation
- The Self Determination Fund
- Supply Nation
- The Australian National University First Nations Portfolio
- Indigenous Business Australia
- First Nations Economics

Advisory Group Members

- Ms Leah Armstrong
- Mr Ben Wyatt
- Dr Terri Janke
- Ms Tanya Hosch
- Mr Michael Woodley
- Ms Jodie Sizer
- Mr Gavin Brown