



Australian Government



Coalition
of Peaks



FIRST NATIONS
ECONOMIC
EMPOWERMENT
ALLIANCE

First Nations Economic Partnership

2025–26 Annual Workplan

About the First Nations Economic Partnership (Economic Partnership)

- The Economic Partnership has been established to advance the economic empowerment and lasting economic security of First Nations peoples, communities and organisations.
- 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.
- The Partners’ commitment to work together is set out in the Economic Partnership Agreement ([published online](#)).

About this Annual Workplan (Workplan)

- The Partners have agreed to develop and publish a Workplan (Partnership Agreement, clauses 36–38).
- This is the inaugural Workplan, covering the period from signing of the Economic Partnership Agreement on 29 September 2025 through to 30 June 2026.
- This Workplan will be reviewed and updated at each meeting of the Economic Partnership.

Objectives – 2025–26

- The Partnership’s objectives for the period of this Workplan are to:
 - Develop policy options and initiatives for Government consideration, aligned with immediate priorities set out in the Workplan — including providing recommendations on practical policy options.
 - Establish inclusive engagement mechanisms with First Nations communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations, businesses and enterprises, Chambers of Commerce, experts, and stakeholders nationwide, consistent with the Partnership Agreement provisions on Additional Participation (clauses 23–26).
 - coordinate effectively with other partnerships and bodies to complement engagement efforts and support cross-government and cross-policy collaboration.

Deliverables – 2025–26

- The Partners agreed to focus on progressing immediate priorities for First Nations economic empowerment, as immediate actions (Partnership Agreement clauses 31–34). This

Workplan sets out initial steps and initial deliverables for these areas of work. Many of these areas of work will continue in future years, building on these initial deliverables.

- One of the agreed priorities is to explore supporting capacity building within First Nations organisations through improved data governance practices in line with Indigenous data sovereignty (Partnership Agreement, clause 34(b)). Given the crosscutting nature of this priority, the Partners will consider this across all deliverables.

Revision History

Version	Date	Author	Approved by	Comments
1.0	8 December 2025	Treasury	Economic Partnership	Agreed
1.1	18 February 2026	Treasury/NIAA	Economic Partnership	Updated
1.2	20 May 2026	NIAA	Economic Partnership	Updated

Key deliverables for 2025–26

Agreement clause	Agreed priority / area ¹	2025–26 deliverable(s)	Milestone dates (to be adjusted as necessary if meeting dates change)	Responsible and relevant contributors
32	Partnership governance and implementation	<p>1. Annual Workplan</p> <p>This document – the Workplan – is the first deliverable of the Economic Partnership.</p>	<p>Completed: 21 October 2025: Workplan discussed</p> <p>Completed: 7 November 2025: Revised Workplan to be shared with Partners for decision</p> <p>Each subsequent Partnership meeting: Workplan reviewed and updated as needed.</p>	<p>Operational Committee to draft for Partners’ consideration</p> <p>Partners to endorse Workplan out of session in November</p>
33	Economic Framework	<p>2. First Nations Economic Framework</p> <p>The Economic Partnership will, as a first priority, design an inclusive and transparent approach to developing the Economic Framework.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Completed: 21 October 2025: Agreed to establish a Working Group to develop the Framework</p> <p>Completed: 11 November 2025: Partner workshop on approach to Framework</p> <p>May 2026: Steering Group commences</p> <p>July 2026: Discussion Paper delivered to Economic Partnership</p> <p>October 2026: Draft Framework</p> <p>December 2026: Final Framework</p>	<p>Steering Committee co-chairs responsible for development of deliverables</p> <p>Partners to endorse deliverables</p>

¹ This column summarises the agreed priorities for immediate action and other areas of work outlined in the Partnership Agreement. For full details refer to the listed clauses.

Agreement clause	Agreed priority / area ¹	2025–26 deliverable(s)	Milestone dates (to be adjusted as necessary if meeting dates change)	Responsible and relevant contributors
		public and include a timeline for completion of the Economic Framework.		
34(a)	Explore establishing a First Nations investment and finance council to consider opportunities to improve investment mechanisms, access to capital, including the improved role of Specialist Investment Vehicles (SIVs) (See clause 34(a))	<p>3. Advice on strengthening (SIV) mandates</p> <p>This is intended as a short-term deliverable drawing on existing advice and recommendations.</p> <p>Longer-term work will be progressed through the Access to Capital and Institutional Reform Working Group (see below).</p>	<p>June 2026: Interim report finalised.</p> <p>December 2026. Final Report finalised.</p>	<p>Government to draft for Partners’ consideration – building on existing programs, reviews and approaches</p> <p>Access to Capital and Institutional Arrangements Working Group to consider</p> <p>Partners to endorse</p>
34(a)	Explore establishing a First Nations investment and finance council (See clause 34(a))	<p>4. Explore establishing a First Nations investment and finance council</p> <p>This is a high priority for the Partnership, to be progressed through the Access to Capital and Institutional Arrangements Working Group.</p> <p>Work may include considering SIVs, the roles of IBA and ILS C,</p>	<p>Completed 22 January 2025: Working Group Terms of Reference agreed</p> <p>March 2026: Working Group commences</p> <p>30 June 2026: Working Group Interim Report</p> <p>31 December 2026: Working Group Final Report</p>	<p>Working Group co-chairs responsible for development of deliverables</p> <p>Partners to endorse deliverables</p>

Agreement clause	Agreed priority / area ¹	2025–26 deliverable(s)	Milestone dates (to be adjusted as necessary if meeting dates change)	Responsible and relevant contributors
		and private capital, building on existing programs and approaches.	<i>Detailed milestones to be agreed in the Working Group Work Schedule</i>	
34 (c)	Explore developing an improved funding package for Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) and other Traditional Owner Representative Institutions	<p>6. Advice on Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC) Funding</p> <p>PBC Steering Group to consult Economic Partnership to inform development of advice on implementation of PBC funding announced on 2 August 2025, including advice on pathways to long-term reform of PBC funding.</p>	<p>Completed 8 December 2025: Partners discussed and provided advice on implementation of PBC funding</p>	<p>PBC Steering Group</p> <p>All Partners to provide advice on proposed approach.</p>
34(d)	Explore 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	<p>7. Explore development of Economic Inclusion Zones</p> <p>Develop an approach to exploring this priority.</p> <p>Work will build on existing programs and approaches</p>	<p>Completed: 22 January 2026: Working Group Terms of Reference agreed</p> <p>Completed: March 2026: Working Group commences</p> <p>31 December 2026: Working Group Report (exploring development of Economic Inclusion Zones)</p> <p><i>Detailed milestones to be agreed in the Working Group Work Schedule</i></p>	<p>Employment and Career Pathways Working Group to consider.</p> <p>Working Group co-chairs responsible for development of deliverables</p> <p>Partners to endorse deliverables</p> <p>Leads: Coalition of Peaks, NIAA</p>

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	strengthen economic participation in sectors such as the care economy, infrastructure and maintenance, cultural enterprises, and land and water management			
34 (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	<p>8. Explore approaches to grow secure employment and career pathways in community controlled sector and support capacity building</p> <p>This is a high priority for the Partnership, to be progressed through a new employment and career pathways Working Group.</p> <p>Work may include existing programs like Remote Jobs and Economic Development program and mobile TAFEs, as well as opportunities in specific sectors.</p>	<p>Completed: 22 January 2026: Working Group Terms of Reference agreed</p> <p>Completed: March 2026: Working Group commences</p> <p>30 June 2026: Working Group Report (exploring approaches to grow secure employment and career pathways)</p> <p><i>Detailed milestones to be agreed in the Working Group Work Schedule</i></p>	<p>Employment and Career Pathways Working Group to consider.</p> <p>Working Group co-chairs responsible for development of deliverables</p> <p>Partners to endorse deliverables</p> <p>Leads: Coalition of Peaks, NIAA</p>

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	professional development, and prioritising community-led service delivery in emerging local economies, including the care economy			
34(f)	Strengthening the outcomes and accountability of the Commonwealth's Indigenous Procurement Policy (IPP), including implementation of the agreed recommendations from the June 2025 Australian National Audit Office report <i>Targets for Minimum Indigenous Employment or Supply Use in Major Australian Government</i>	<p>9. Indigenous Procurement Policy (IPP)</p> <p>Explore strengthening the outcomes and accountability of the IPP</p>	<p>Completed: 18 February 2026: Advice on IPP, including implementation of the agreed recommendations from the June 2025 Australian National Audit Office report</p> <p>23 September 2026: NIAA to bring a further paper on the IPP for discussion and agreement.</p>	<p>Government to draft for Partners' consideration – building on existing programs and approaches</p> <p>Partners to endorse</p> <p>Government contributors: NIAA, Finance</p>

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	<i>Procurements – Follow-up</i>			

Performance measures

Performance against these measures will be reported on a quarterly basis, at the Partnership meeting following the end of each quarter.

Measure	Target
Annual Workplan published	Publication
Approach to developing the Economic Framework published	Publication
Funding allocations published	100% of allocations
Meeting outcomes published 15 business days after each meeting	100% of meetings
Annual written update delivered to the Accountable Ministers by 31 July 2026	Delivery
Annual written update published within 5 business days of being accepted by the Accountable Ministers	Publication
Monitoring and evaluation framework delivered and published by 30 June 2026	Publication