

First Nations Economic Partnership

2026–27 Annual Workplan (1 July to 31 December 2026)

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 Workplan covers the period from 1 July 2026 to 31 December 2026.
- This Workplan will be reviewed and updated at each meeting of the Economic Partnership.
- The Workplan will be made publicly available.

Objectives – 2026-27

- 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 – 2026-27

- 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.

Revision History

Version	Date	Author	Approved by	Comments
1.0	22 July 2026	NIAA	Economic Partnership	

Key deliverables for 2026-27

Priority	Deliverables	Actions	Timeframe	Lead
1. Annual Workplan Clause: 32	Annual Workplan	Agree 2026-27 Workplan (1 July to 31 December 2026)	22 July 2026	Operational Committee, Working Groups <i>Partners to endorse</i>
		Agree 2026-27 Workplan (1 January to 30 June 2027)	November 2026	Operational Committee, Working Groups <i>Partners to endorse (out-of-session)</i>
2. First Nations Economic Framework Clause: 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.	The Economic Partnership will, as a first priority, design an inclusive and transparent approach to developing the Economic Framework.	22 July 2026	Economic Framework Steering Committee <i>Partners to endorse</i>
		Economic Framework Discussion Paper delivered to the Economic Partnership	14 September 2026	Economic Framework Steering Committee <i>Partners to endorse</i>
		Draft Economic Framework	14 December 2026	Economic Framework Steering Committee <i>Partners to provide feedback</i>
		Final Framework	15 January 2027	Economic Framework Steering Committee <i>Partners to endorse</i>
3. Advice on strengthening (SIVs role) Clause: 34 (a)	Explore strengthening the role of Specialist Investment Vehicles (SIVs) in supporting improved First Nations	Access to Capital and Institutional Arrangements Working Group Final Report	31 December 2026	Access to Capital and Institutional Arrangements Working Group

Priority	Deliverables	Actions	Timeframe	Lead
<i>Detailed milestones have been agreed in the ACIA Working Group Work Schedule</i>	access to capital, including consideration of investment mandates. In developing advice, the Working Group will consider work underway across Government of SIVs.			<i>Partners to endorse</i>
4. Explore establishing a First Nations investment and finance council Clause: 34 (a) <i>Detailed milestones have been agreed in the ACIA Working Group Work Schedule</i>	Explore establishing a First Nations investment and finance council Work may include considering SIVs, the roles of IBA and ILSC, and private capital, building on existing programs and approaches.	Access to Capital and Institutional Arrangements Working Group Interim Report	22 July 2026	Access to Capital and Institutional Arrangements Working Group <i>Partners to endorse</i>
		Access to Capital and Institutional Arrangements Working Group Final Report	31 December 2026	Access to Capital and Institutional Arrangements Working Group <i>Partners to endorse</i>
5. Explore development of Economic Inclusion Zones Clause: 34 (d) <i>Detailed milestones have been agreed in the ECP Working Group Work Schedule</i>	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 strengthen economic participation in sectors such as the care economy, infrastructure and maintenance, cultural enterprises, and land and water management.	Employment and Career Pathways Working Group Initial Report: Exploring development of Economic Inclusion Zones	22 July 2026	Employment and Career Pathways Working Group <i>Partners to provide feedback</i>
		Employment and Career Pathways Working Group Final Report: Exploring development of Economic Inclusion Zones	2 December 2026	Employment and Career Pathways Working Group <i>Partners to endorse</i>
6. Explore approaches to grow secure employment and career pathways in community-controlled	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-	Employment and Careers Pathways Working Group Report: Exploring approaches	23 September 2026	Employment and Career Pathways Working Group <i>Partners to endorse</i>

Priority	Deliverables	Actions	Timeframe	Lead
sector and support capacity building Clause 34 (e) <i>Detailed milestones to be agreed in the Working Group Work Schedule</i>	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	to grow secure employment and career pathways		
7. Indigenous Procurement Policy (IPP) Clause: 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 Procurements—Follow-up</i>	NIAA to bring a further paper on the IPP for discussion on approach to further strengthen outcomes and accountability	23 September 2026	NIAA
8. Data Policy Partnership	Support capacity building within First Nations organisations through improved data governance practices in line with Indigenous data sovereignty Partners to consider intersection of this focus with other priorities, including with Working Groups. Work with the Data Policy Partnership, and Indigenous Businesses Australia's (IBA) Office of the Indigenous Economy, including to consider the issue of data sovereignty.	Data Policy Partnership to provide update to Partners	2 December 2026	Data Policy Partnership <i>All Partners to provide advice on proposed approach.</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