

FACT SHEET

Working with Aboriginal Land Management Groups



Healthy landscapes, healthy culture

In recent years there has been a growing recognition of the importance of Indigenous knowledge in maintaining healthy landscapes, particularly in remote parts of the Northern Territory where Aboriginal people are the main residents. Government and private sector support for Aboriginal land management/ranger groups is creating economic development opportunities through the provision of paid employment and contract services. These groups are also active in maintaining and enhancing Indigenous knowledge about landscapes.

Ranger groups and sacred sites

Sacred sites are very important to the cultural and ecological integrity of landscapes across the Northern Territory. Most rangers have a deep understanding of the linkages between sacred sites in their traditional lands and the wider landscape, and incorporate such understanding into their contemporary land management practices.

Increasing recognition of the biodiversity value of the Aboriginal estate, and the role of Aboriginal people in its maintenance, has resulted in the establishment of numerous Aboriginal land management and ranger groups across the Northern Territory. In most cases, Aboriginal rangers are also custodians of sacred sites, which entails a range of roles and responsibilities for the protection and maintenance of these sites.

Working together

The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) promotes the importance of maintaining Aboriginal cultural values across the Territory through its primary function of protecting sacred sites. Increasingly the AAPA is working with Aboriginal organisations to promote economic development outcomes through collaboration with land and sea rangers in the protection of sacred sites. Assistance and collaboration with the AAPA can occur in areas such as developing cultural heritage management plans, programs of sacred site registration, and the provision of investigator training.

The AAPA sees collaboration with land and sea ranger groups as being important to the protection of sacred sites in the Northern Territory. Collaboration with the AAPA not only supports the activities of these groups, but also empowers custodians to protect their sacred sites and actively engage in formal planning processes and investigations of damage to sacred sites.

Contact us

AAPA staff are available to discuss sacred site issues with Aboriginal land management groups across the Northern Territory. Please contact us at our offices in Darwin and Alice Springs (see below) if you require advice.



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