



**AITSIS National Indigenous Research  
Conference**

July 2019



# About the project

- 5 year project
- Led by Desert Support Services
- Supported by international and regional conservation partners
- Builds on work of Indigenous rangers, IPAs and project partners
- Will take Indigenous land management in the desert to a new level

- NORTHERN TERRITORY**
- Aboriginal Land (NT enhanced freehold)
  - Aboriginal Land Rights Act (Northern Territory) 1976 (Cth) (ALRA)
  - Community Living Areas (CLA) Leases (NT)
  - Crown Lands Act 1992 (NT)
  - Special Purposes Leases Act 1953 (NT)

- QUEENSLAND**
- Aboriginal Land Act 1991 (QLD)
  - Deeds of Grant in trust (DOGIT) (QLD)
  - Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991 (QLD)

- WESTERN AUSTRALIA**
- Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972 (WA)

- SOUTH**
- Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act 1981 (SA)
  - Maralinga Tranarūja Land Rights Act 1984
  - Aboriginal Lands Trust Act 1966

- NEW SOUTH WALES & JERVIS BAY TERRITORY**
- Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983
  - Freehold land as defined under Aboriginal Land Grant (Jervis Bay Territory) Act 1986 [Cth]. Also known as the "403 Lands".

- VICTORIA & TASMANIA**
- VIC, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1970
  - VIC, Aboriginal Land (Lake Condah and Framlingham Forest) Act 1987 (Cth) (VIC)
  - Tas, Aboriginal Lands Act 1995

 10 Deserts Boundary





**Indigenous Estates**

**Land granted under specified indigenous land grant instruments**

\*BCL=Indigenous estates only represents those indigenous land areas granted under the following jurisdictional land grant instruments-<BCL> Aboriginal Land (NT enhanced freehold), Aboriginal Land Rights Act (NT) 1976 (Cth) (ALRA), Community Living Areas (CLA) Leases under the Associations Act 2012 (NT), Crown Lands Act 1992 (NT), Special Purposes Leases Act 1953 (NT), Aboriginal Land Act 1991 (QLD), Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991 (QLD), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Holding Act 2013 (Qld), Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2008 (Cth), Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972 (WA), Aboriginal Lands Trust Act 1966 (SA), Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act 1981 (SA), Maralinga Tranarūja Land Rights Act 1984 (SA), Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (NSW), Aboriginal Lands Act 1970 (VIC), Aboriginal Land (Lake Condah and Framlingham Forest) Act 1987 (Cth) (VIC), Aboriginal Lands Act 1995 (Tas) and Aboriginal Land Grant (Jervis Bay Territory) Act 1986.

Spatial data sourced from and used with permission of Dept of Aboriginal Affairs (WA), Landspace (WA), Dept of Natural Resources, Mines & Energy (QLD) @ The State of Queensland, Land & Property Information (NSW), Dept of Infrastructure, Planning & Logistics (NT), Dept of Planning, Transport & Infrastructure (SA), Dept of Infrastructure, Planning & Logistics (NT), Dept of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (VIC), and Geoscience Australia, Australian Government.

**Determinations where native title exists**  
31 March 2019

- Determined outcomes**
-  Native title exists (exclusive)
  -  Native title exists (non-exclusive)

\* Outcomes may vary between determined areas and granted indigenous estates

Some or parts of some determinations may not yet be in effect or on the National Native Title Register (NNTTR). The court may decide that the determination of native title will take effect conditional upon some future event occurring, for example, the registration of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement or the establishment and registration of a prescribed body corporate (PBC). In these cases the determination, or relevant part, will not be registered on the NNTTR until the condition has been met.

While the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) and the Native Title Registrar (Registrar) have exercised due care in ensuring the accuracy of the information provided, it is provided for general information only and on the understanding that neither the NNTT, the Registrar nor the Commonwealth of Australia is providing professional advice. Appropriate professional advice relevant to your circumstances should be sought rather than relying on the information provided. In addition, you must exercise your own judgment and carefully evaluate the information provided for accuracy, currency, completeness and relevance for the purpose for which it is to be used. The information provided is often supplied by, or based on, data and information from external sources, therefore the NNTT and Registrar cannot guarantee that the information is accurate or up-to-date. The NNTT and Registrar expressly disclaim any liability arising from the use of this information. This information should not be relied upon in relation to any matters associated with cultural heritage.





*Building environmental resilience*  
*Enhanced Indigenous livelihoods*      *Strong Indigenous voice*

Building the capacity of Indigenous people and organisations

Managing key threats to natural and cultural assets

Creating new markets for sustainable jobs and income

1

Capacity building



2

Supporting ranger teams



3

Fire management



4

Feral camel management



5

Buffel Free GVD



6

Carbon and co-benefits



7

Regional tourism



8



Indigenous cultural and ecological knowledge

Supporting intergenerational transfer amongst Indigenous people



A strong voice and network for Indigenous land management organisations in the desert

# Early achievements

Provided funding to the IDA for annual conferences and other events

Over 200 people attended the IDA conference and the species of the desert festival at Mulan

Helped leverage funding for a new ranger team and IPA consultation project

Funded more right-way fire and provided aerial incendiary training to 12 Indigenous rangers

Held first regional leadership program for interested rangers

Provided seed funding for 11 new and emerging ranger teams

First feral camel control work removing nearly 1,000 camels in the NT

Started a feasibility study for a carbon story for the desert

Developing a regional Indigenous tourism strategy for the project

# Indigenous partners



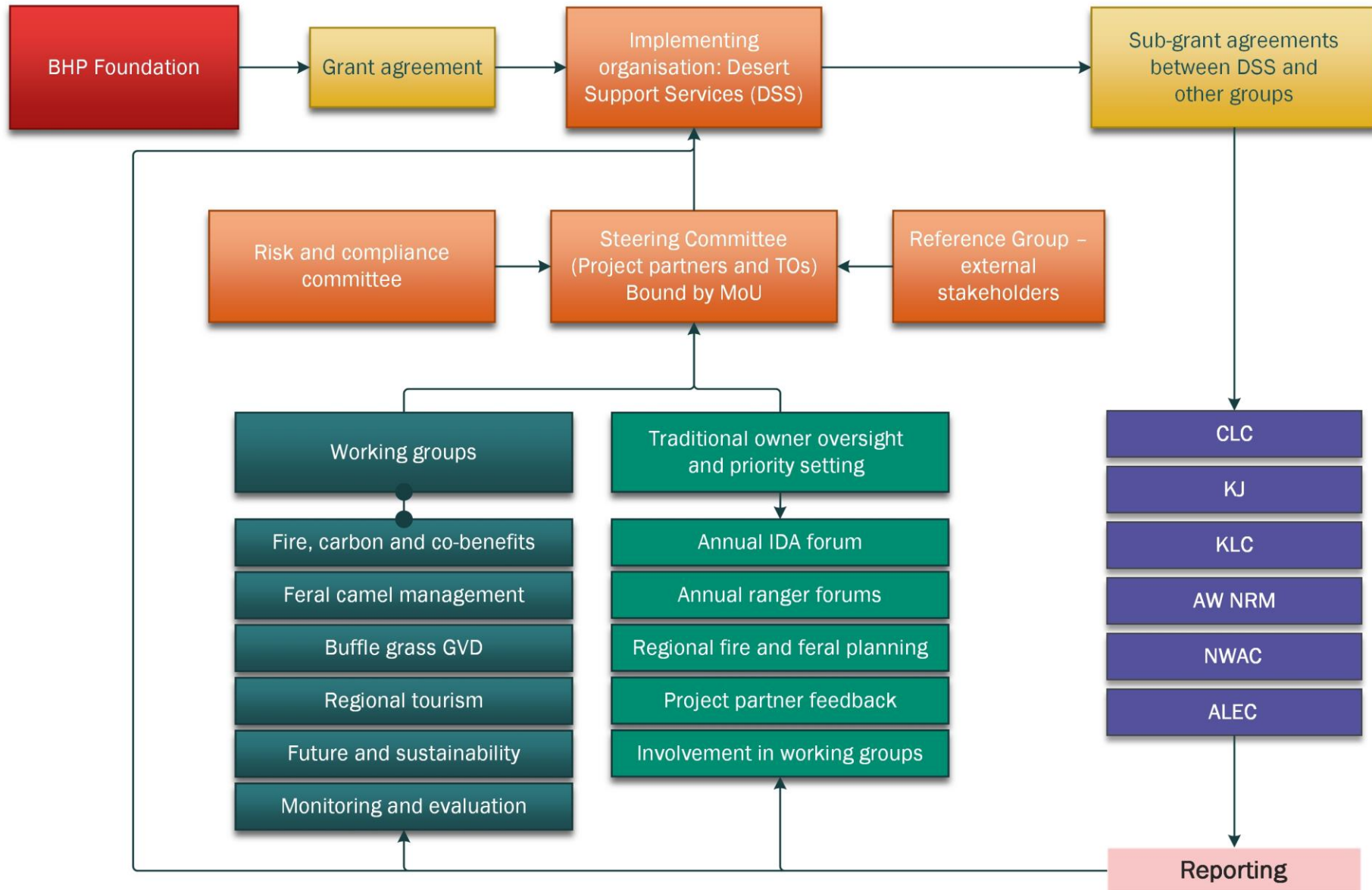
# Supported by



# Enabled by



# 10DP Governance Structure



# Key features

- Commercials – between Foundation and DSS
- Devolved funding to partners and others, subject to due diligence
- MoU – binding between the project partners primarily to protect cultural information
- Oversight and strategy provided by steering committee and traditional owner (TO) representatives
- Wider TO oversight and feedback built in
- External oversight by risk and compliance advisor



# Steering committee

- Separate terms of reference in the MoU – voting, quorums etc.
- Partners represented by two traditional owner representatives and a staff member
- Meets four times per annum – face to face (twice) – mainly in Perth
- Provides oversight and can make recommendations to the DSS board if necessary





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**DESERTS PROJECT**

- Identify, develop and implement strategic actions
- Supporting Indigenous cultural and environmental knowledge
- Develop a new generation of workforce

**DESERTS PROJECT**

**An Indigenous partnership for the country and people**

# Challenges

- Multiple language groups means meetings are mainly in English
- Literacy and numeracy levels vary
- Email and phone access varies
- Governance and compliance terms are largely whitefella concepts – often no equivalent terms in desert languages
- Scale of the project increases meeting costs and frequency
- Field season busy
- Phone meetings difficult to make work



# Solutions

- Steering committee agenda begins and ends with TO discussion and feedback on the project and meeting
- Financial and other reports are more visual than text based
- Each face to face meeting, do interviews with TOs attending and independent analysis of feedback
- Partner with AIGI on a research project to review and refine project governance
  - Ensure strong Indigenous voice
  - Adapt AIGI material for desert organisations



# DESERTS PROJECT

An Indigenous-led partnership for healthy country and people

For further information go to  
[www.tendeserts.org](http://www.tendeserts.org)