

Day 3 Session 4: Queensland South and CLC Community development: *Fit for Purpose: Community Development models People, Place and Partnership (PPP): A model for leveraging and governing native title.*

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Successful traditional Owner groups within Queensland South Native Title Services' (QSNTS) whose native title rights and interests are recognised are now turning to issues of concern for their Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) ie. the bodies incorporated to hold their rights and interests.

What comes from recognition? How do native title rights and interests translate into opportunities and lasting benefits to Traditional Owners? Not least, as in the case with many determinations in QSNTS's region (and beyond) where the rights and interests recognised are non-exclusive?

Such questions are being asked of QSNTS by native title holders. In response QSNTS has developed a People Place & Partnership framework, which is a rights-based, strengths-focused approach for nation building.

However, in the absence of substantial income streams to Traditional Owner groups, and limited Commonwealth support funding to PBCs, QSNTS has developed a responsive strategy- beginning with their own internal repurposing of how to meet such challenges.

First, QSNTS has focused on repositioning internal skillsets, and partnering with key institutions. Second, QSNTS has a practice for Walking with Traditional Owners to implement native title rights and interests for achieving beneficial, sustainable outcomes.

The Central Land Council's community development program is another model of how outcomes on country can be achieved. The unit has been driving positive change in remote Aboriginal communities since 2005. The approach involves working with constituents who choose to invest their collective royalty, rent, compensation and leasing income in projects for outcomes that strengthen their communities, identities, languages, cultures, and connections to country; and offer capacity to participate in mainstream Australia.

Evidence-based approaches work, as CLC attests, because local participation and control sits at its heart; while also welcoming the support of external expertise through the Community development reference group.

Ultimately the intention is the journey (as much as the outcome) such that processes build self-reliance, bolster communities, and promote good governance as people use their own income and resources to design and implement development projects they prioritise.

The Community Development's mandate is to deliver projects in partnerships with local Aboriginal-controlled organisations and companies.

Ian Sweeney outlined key elements of the community development model:

- The income available derived from Land Rights and Native Title rights can be invested to benefit the rights holders
- The CLC and NLC initiative a community development practice network that now includes the APY lands and QSNTS

- In the CLC's experience governance and capacity building is critical.
- The capacity of project partners is another important factor.
- The tensions involved in developing programs in disputed areas can impact greatly on success.
- Equitability of income streams between different groups influences the level of impact a project may have
- CLC is now entering into co-funding arrangements to assist with investment capital

The QSNTS team outline key principles in an effective model:

- A key platform for outcomes in QSNTS's view is that any effective model must be localised, fit for purpose and strengths based
- They also see governance capacity as critical
- Leveraging rights is very difficult across the board, so place-based opportunities must be identified.
As a NTSP QSNTS performs functions under NTA adopting a 'client development' model with interdisciplinary implementation teams
- While QSNTS promotes an understanding of the benefits of Native Title Holders' rights and interests, funding for PBCs is limited and restricts the scope of beneficial activities
- Funding streams may be available through government policy imperatives but have yet to be explored.