



08 Partnership agreements

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What to expect

Agreements should be clear, fair, and respectful.

They should support good communication, shared decision-making, and opportunities to build skills. Make sure key project details are confirmed before signing an agreement.

- Who has the right to speak for Country
- What rules need to be followed – within the Community and with the partner
- Who can make decisions
- How will Community be kept informed

Check agreements to see if they include:

1. Roles, and responsibilities

- What is going to happen
- What you've agreed to do
- What they've agreed to do
- Time frames – how long is the project and when will things happen
- Who is responsible

2. Protection of cultural heritage and environment

- Sacred sites
- Environmental values / caring for Country
- Cultural knowledge [01 Protecting cultural knowledge]

3. Project governance and decision-making

- Who makes decisions
- How disputes are resolved
- When updates are provided, to who, and how
- How progress will be tracked
- How outcomes will be assessed [05 Governance and decision making]

4. Shared benefits

- Job opportunities
- Training opportunities
- Money the project earns
- Other benefits [07 Benefits assessment]

5. Legal and ethical compliance

- Clauses for engagement, consent and protection of cultural knowledge
- Clauses for dispute resolution, review, changing, and ending the agreement