



Australian Government



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE  
OF MARINE SCIENCE

## **PARTNERING FOR IMPACT WITH FIRST NATIONS AUSTRALIANS - OVERCOMING BARRIERS AND REAPING BENEFITS**

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*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are advised that this presentation contains images of people who have died.*

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF KAURNA COUNTRY

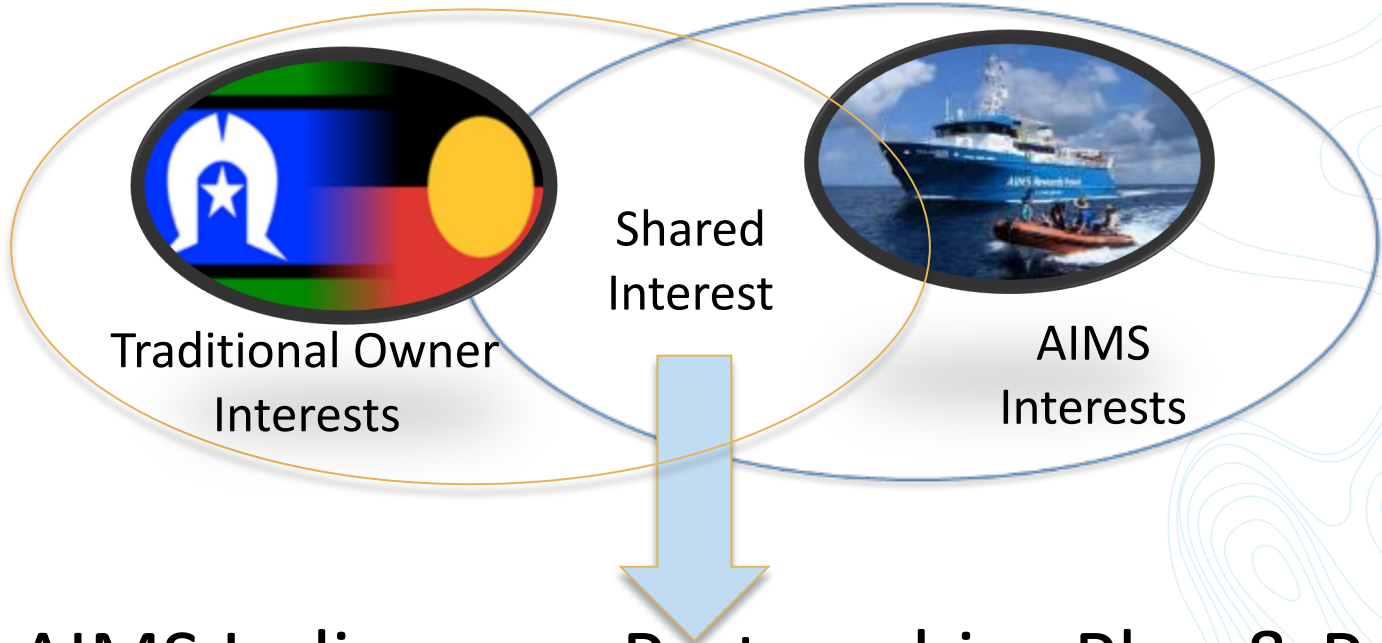
**We would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners  
of the land where we meet today,  
and pay our respects to elders past, present and future.**

We honour their continuing culture, knowledge, beliefs  
and spiritual relationship and connection to Country.

We also recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as  
the Traditional Owners of the land and sea Country on which  
AIMS works, and as Australia's first scientists.

**Through collaboration and two-way knowledge sharing, we can learn from each other.**





## The AIMS Indigenous Partnerships Plan & Policy

- Synergies in science, capability and capacity needs and priorities
- Respect and value Traditional Knowledge = western science
- Respect the principle of Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC)
- Support TO's inherent rights and responsibilities for sea Country

# ENGAGEMENT TIERS APPLIED ACROSS AIMS RESEARCH



- FPIC**
- TOs are decision makers**
- Lore + Law**

- Integrated into “procedural infrastructure”.
  - ✓ project management systems and processes
  - ✓ approval workflows for new projects and field trips



# RELATIONSHIPS START WITH TRUTH TELLING

- AIMS Data Explorer
  - Georeferenced metadata catalogue
  - Empowers TOs to independently access info about past research on their sea Country.
- Line in the sand between old and new ways.

# CULTURAL COMPETENCY TRAINING AND SUPPORT

- Formal face to face training (service provider)
- On-Country experiences with elders
- E-learning
- Induction for new staff, mentoring
- Celebration of significant Indigenous days
- Cultural safety is paramount



# Indigenous Futures Vision:

Use AIMS as a platform to create and deliver pathways and opportunities for Indigenous people to lead in marine science and sea Country stewardship

- At all levels (youth, vocational training, microcredentials, skills for practitioners, tertiary education)
- Pathways that translate AIMS science to real world practice (train the trainer approach)
- Pathways that deliver skills to support involvement in AIMS activities and in areas of priority to Traditional Owners
- Not just marine science – also operations, administration, governance



Research outcomes  
– new methods,  
knowledge

Accredited  
training packages  
mapped to  
available units

Deliver to rangers  
piloted by AIMS  
then open-access  
for RTO sector

- Validated marine monitoring methods
- Deployment-ready reef restoration interventions

### Units in Cert III Conservation and Ecosystem Management

**AHCMAR301** Conduct a subtidal marine monitoring operation from a vessel or platform

**HCECR303** Implement biological reintroduction works.

**AHCECR311** Implement ecosystem reconstruction works

**AHCECR308** Conduct a site inspection for ecological restoration

**AHCLPW308** Coordinate and report on data collection

**AHCECR306** Conduct photography for field work



Unit AHCMAR301

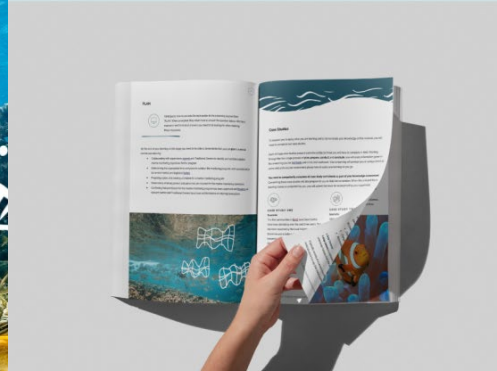
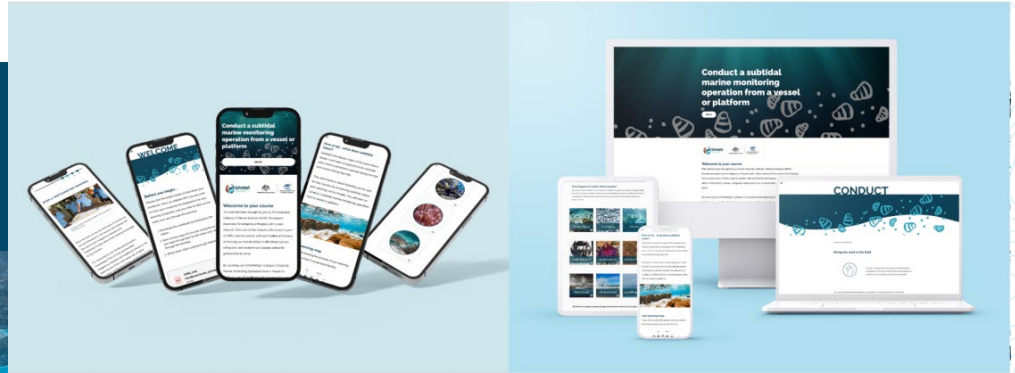
# Conduct a subtidal marine monitoring operation from a vessel or platform

## UNIT HANDBOOK

# Conduct a subtidal marine monitoring operation from a vessel or platform

## ASSESSMENT GUIDE

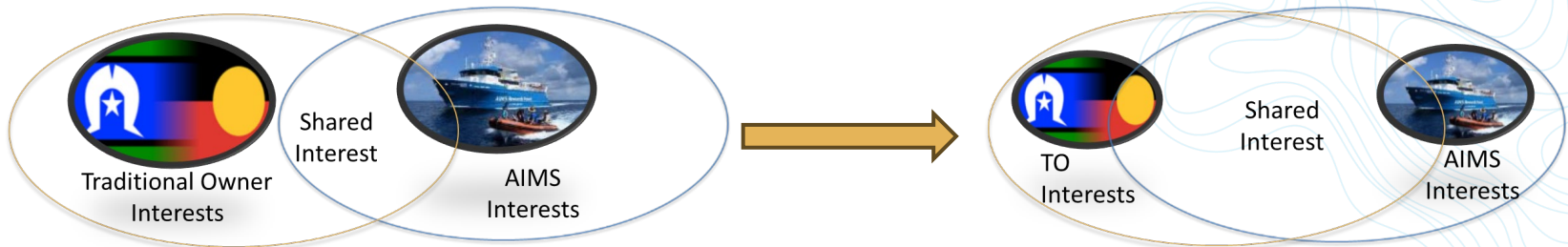
Participant's Version



# Indigenous Science Vision:

Create new Indigenous led science directions for AIMS, that deliver to Traditional Owner knowledge needs and incorporate Traditional Knowledge and Indigenous science in a social-ecological framework.

- Establish Indigenous leadership and direction (advisor group, network)
- Highlight TO knowledge needs and the value of Traditional Knowledge
- Projects across the spectrum – not just in area of shared interest
- Translation of AIMS science to TOs including creation of economic opportunity (eg RRAP, aquaculture, blue carbon)
- Social science collaborations to measure impact of partnership projects



# Neutral Partnerships

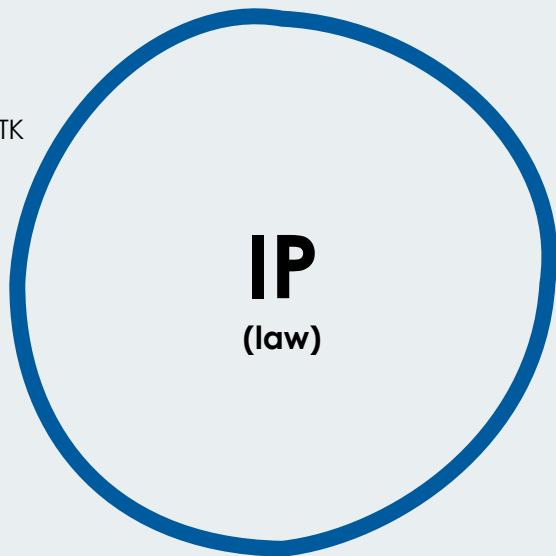
- Avoid assuming position of authority.
- Support Indigenous knowledge practices.
- Value Traditional Knowledge
- Protect ICIP



# Protecting Knowledge

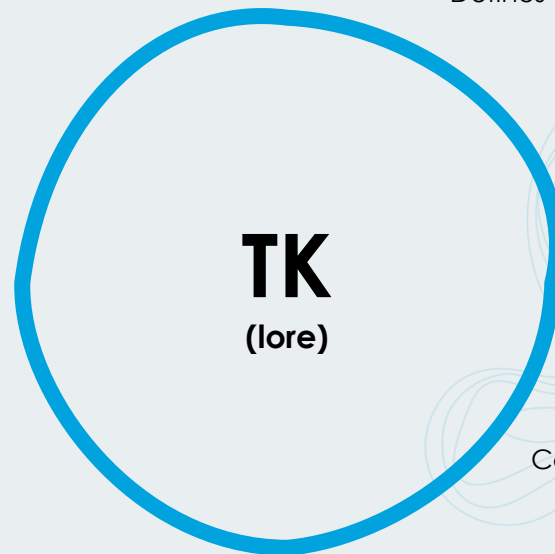
## Contract

Covers IP, but  
excludes ICIP in TK



Defines TK

Explicit about  
ownership /  
custodianship



Sets rules for use

Covers ICIP in TK



# Woppaburra Coral Project



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# Outcomes

## Reef Restoration Science

- Drivers of post-settlement mortality
- Substrate testing
- Coral seeding & propagation methods

## Traditional Owner & community partnerships

- Co-designed elements
- Time on-Country
- New cultural practice/protocols

## Aquaculture & restoration training

- Certificate III Aquaculture (2)
- HDR students (4)
- Micro-credentials

# IMPACT – Direct and Leveraged

- Profound social value changes
- Reconnection to family, culture, Country
- Pathways to employment
- Access to scientific data about Country
- Native title determination
- Established new corporation
- Established ranger program





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AIMS: Australia's tropical marine research agency.

# Thankyou!

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