

The Foundations for Effective Indigenous Inclusion

CRC TiME is committed to leading practice Indigenous Australians' inclusion in transdisciplinary research. Our work focuses on addressing Indigenous community needs and priorities in transitions from operational mining to post-mining economies.

KEY FINDINGS

As CRC TiME pursues leading practice to ethically and morally incorporate the values, aspirations and knowledge held by First Nation Australians into all its activities, the report recommended the following shape its Indigenous Inclusion Strategy:

- The Indigenous Inclusion Strategy should aim to exemplify the principles, practices and protocols of outstanding and enduring relationships with First Nations people as informed by international, national and place-based theories and best practice.
- Ethical and moral systems should be devised and implemented to enable relationship-building and subsequently buttress enduring impactful Indigenous inclusion that is mutually beneficial for all parties and exemplifies values of equality, equitability, respect, integrity and reciprocity.
- Recognise and respect Indigenous Australians' right to self-determination and utilising mechanisms to ensure it is actualised in practice.
- Recognition of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), Mutually Agreed Terms and Access and Benefit Sharing. FPIC is ongoing and by implication also includes the inherent right to withdraw consent.
- Recognition of Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) and all it encompasses in virtue of justice and as a mechanism to promote self-determination.
- Acknowledge that time is an all-encompassing inherently holistic principle for Indigenous Australians that will influence the relationship and research initiatives. Considerations must be afforded for the differing perceptions of time.
- Relationships matter – take time and allocate resources to build culturally safe relationships with Indigenous Australians.
- Pathways to the sharing of traditional Knowledge and reciprocal generation of new knowledge are protected through overarching ethical protocols, procedures and practices co-designed/ co-developed for the life cycle of an activity, in which all stakeholder contributions are welcomed, equally valued and acknowledged.



Kimberley Traditional Owners Ranger Planning Day, February 2021. Indigenous Desert Alliance.

It is vital that CRC TiME's policies, procedures and practices are cognisant of the connections of Indigenous Australians to Country. Since this report was completed, CRC TiME has developed A First Nations Inclusion Strategy to promote enduring relationships with Indigenous Australians resulting in tangible and intangible outcomes and opportunities in post-mine economic, social and environmental transitions following mine closure.

This research aimed to identify what constitutes 'leading practice' in transition research relating to mining and post-mining economies. It focuses on how this can be shaped into strategy that encapsulates these principles.

THE CHALLENGE

The timeframes for building relationships may be underestimated by some researchers planning their projects. Relationship building takes time and requires continual and reciprocal nurturing with clear and open communication. Some previous practices within the resource-based and research sectors have failed both morally and ethically, particularly in consulting and including Traditional Owners in economic development activities on Indigenous lands. There has been previous lack of respect for Indigenous culture and traditional ways of caring for Country. The challenge today learns from historical mistakes, leading practice and creates a way forward that enables true working with Indigenous people, co-designing and leading projects with mutually acceptable outcomes. With this in mind, CRC TiME recognised the need for an Indigenous Inclusion Strategy which formed the basis for the Foundations for Effective Indigenous Inclusion report.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Successful post-mining transition is a collaborative effort involving a wide range of stakeholders with often competing values and agendas who appropriately manage issues and chart positive, economic-diverse futures for regions, mining and communities. The opportunity is to ethically and morally incorporate the values, aspirations and knowledge held by First Nation Australians into research and associated CRC TiME activities while protecting the right to self-determination.

This presented CRC TiME with the opportunity to engage Curtin University to conduct a critical analysis of international and Australian literature as well as web-based resources on the topic, including utilising Indigenous staff to compile the findings of the literature review. Through this, the CRC TiME and current and future researchers and project partners can apply the report's the eight overarching recommendations to guide best practice procedures, protocols, co-design, collaboration and communications.

OUTCOMES

The final report consisted of a literature review delivering a comprehensive collaboration and analysis of referenced material informing the process of establishing a 'leading practice' relationship between Traditional Owners and the CRC TiME and researchers. In addition, the report provided a non-exhaustive directory of Indigenous individuals, communities, businesses and organisations that participants in CRC TiME may utilise.

The project was limited due to time constraints and realisation that nationally and internationally published literature on the topic was minimal however, through the authorship of the report consisting of three out of four Indigenous staff, the findings were appropriately reviewed for consistency and validity.

Local community-based feedback on the findings could be the next step in the process to further test and validate the eight overarching recommendations.

NEXT STEPS

Future projects will work towards embedding the Indigenous Inclusion Strategy across all CRC TiME activities. Work is underway however, with the First Nations Inclusion Strategy including guidance from the First Nations Advisory Team, (FNAT) future projects will aim to:

- Implement the eight overarching recommendations from the Foundations for Effective Indigenous Inclusion report and regularly review and monitor outcomes.
- Determine if additional scoping is needed for place-based activities and how to address any short-comings.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Curtin University; CSIRO; ILUKA; BHP; Newmont; MMG

PROJECT PUBLICATIONS

[REVIEW FULL REPORT](#)

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ABOUT US

The Cooperative Research Centre for Transformations in Mining Economies is part of Australia's national innovation ecosystem. Our diverse partnership brings scale, collaboration and coordinated investment to tackle the most complex mine closure and post-mine transition challenges. Together we're rethinking what's possible to improve outcomes for people, communities, the environment and industry.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians across all the lands on which we live and work, and we pay our respects to Elders both past and present.