

RESPONSE TO NOUS REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS - CENTRAL DESERT NATIVE TITLE SERVICES (CDNTS)

TOR 1 Extent to which each organisation has achieved positive native title outcomes for persons who hold or may hold native title in its region taking account, where relevant, of disruptions caused by COVID-19.
Nil recommendations.
TOR 2 Extent to which each organisation assesses and prioritises applications for assistance in a manner that is equitable, transparent, and robust, and is well publicised and understood by clients and potential clients. (Rec 1)
Rec 1 Develop a formal assessment and prioritisation policy for compensation claims and embed processes to communicate this approach transparently to native title holders.
Response Accepted. Status: in progress. An informal process is place. Formal process will be documented and implemented after completion of 24 field season. Estimated completion first quarter of 25 calendar year.
TOR 3 Extent to which each organisation deals respectfully, equitably, transparently and in a culturally appropriate manner with persons who hold or may hold native title in its region, including by adequately investigating and resolving complaints.
Nil recommendations.
TOR 4 Extent to which each organisation performs its functions in a cost-effective manner, including by identifying the key cost drivers for the organisation.
Nil recommendations.
TOR 5 Extent to which each organisation has governance and management structures, and organisational policies and an organisational culture that support efficient and effective project delivery. (Rec 2-3)
Rec 2 Review the delineation of functions and responsibilities between DABS and CDNTS, to explore how the most efficient subsidiary structure can be established.
Response Accepted. Status: in progress. Strategic discussions are taking place at board and executive level, for a review of how the Central Desert Group of companies works together and best leverages the collective strengths of the group. This may or may not result in changes to the current structure.
Rec 3 Develop and incorporate protocols that define the parameters of addressing a conflict of interest relating to CDNTS staff members and in day-to-day decision-making of the organisation
Response Accepted. Status: completed. Updated Conflict of Interest Policy issued which applies to both Directors and Staff.

TOR 6 Extent to which each organisation is adequately supporting Prescribed Body Corporates towards self-sufficiency. (Rec 4)
Rec 4 Explore additional mechanisms and funding opportunities (for example, PBC networks and forums, and PBC grants) that would allow the PBC Support Unit to increase its focus on capacity-building and self-sufficiency, in addition to its focus on governance, compliance and administrative support.
Response Accepted. Status: ongoing. This is a matter of ongoing discussion at CDNTS, and with our subsidiary companies, and between CDNTS and NIAA. We seek to increase the PBC Basic Funding grant to provide a base line capacity with which to leverage into economic and capacity building. CDNTS resources are otherwise already over-subscribed in the delivery of governance, compliance and administrative support. Other opportunities such as the PBC Capacity Building Grant, while a worthy initiative, require a reasonable degree of resources and existing capacity to make an effective and meaningful application which serves to address the capacity building barriers, beyond basic cyclical reliance upon grant funding.
TOR 7 Extent to which each organisation has developed its planning for a post-determination environment. (Rec 5)
Rec 5 Engage with all PBCs to understand their aspirations in a post-determination environment and ensure alignment with CDNTS's new Strategic Plan.
Response Accepted. Status: ongoing. Central Desert PBCs each have strategic plans. These are developed, with support from CDNTS Legal and PBC Coordination teams, working with the PBC Boards. This item links closely with TOR 6 recommendation. In some cases limited availability of resources to enact the strategic plan is a barrier.