

**From:** [Julius "Clint" Kernan](#)  
**To:** [IAS Grants](#)  
**Subject:** Enquiry regarding IAS Grant Funding - Top End Aboriginal Coastal Alliance Incorporated  
**Date:** Tuesday, 18 June 2024 9:58:03 AM

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Dear Sir/Madam

*I am writing to you as the Chairperson of the Top End Aboriginal Coastal Alliance Incorporated (TEACA) which is a First Nations operated and controlled organisation with 100% First Nations membership which was established by senior First Nations leaders who represent various sea country areas and coastal estates across the top end of the Northern Territory (we refer to this as the Top End).*

*TEACA's purpose is to represent the interests of, advocate for, and to enhance the capacity of Aboriginal peoples of the Top End to directly engage with Government, industry, and non-Government organisations in a culturally appropriate manner in relation to matters that may affect their sea country and coastal estates and other areas. TEACA members can and have played a vital role in connecting with other First Nations persons, groups, and communities to identify relevant First Nations persons for other coastal and sea country areas for which consultation or other engagement may be or has been required in relation to offshore activities.*

*TEACA is not currently receiving any funding and would like to discuss funding opportunities that are available under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy. TEACA has identified some current grant opportunities detailed on the Grant Connect website which may be suitable, and it would like to meet with NIAA's Darwin office to discuss these further and other possible grant opportunities which it may not be aware of.*

*Could you please advise of a suitable time for TEACA to meet with NIAA's Darwin office to discuss the above. I can be contacted on 0499 948 829.*

*Kind Regards*

*Julius Kernan*

*TEACA Chairperson*

**From:** [Julius "Clint" Kieran](#)  
**To:** **s22**  
**Subject:** Grant Funding Opportunities - Top End Aboriginal Coastal Alliance Incorporated (TEACA) - request for meeting with NIAA Darwin office  
**Date:** Tuesday, 18 June 2024 3:04:04 PM

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Dear **s22**

Thank you for your time on the phone this morning. Further to our conversation set out below is further information about the Top End Aboriginal Coastal Alliance Incorporated (TEACA).

I am writing to you as the Chairperson of TEACA which is a First Nations operated and controlled organisation with 100% First Nations membership which was established by senior First Nations leaders who represent various sea country areas and coastal estates across the top end of the Northern Territory (we refer to this as the Top End).

TEACA's purpose is to represent the interests of, advocate for, and to enhance the capacity of Aboriginal peoples of the Top End to directly engage with Government, industry, and non-Government organisations in a culturally appropriate manner in relation to matters that may affect their sea country and coastal estates and other areas. TEACA members can and have played a vital role in connecting with other First Nations persons, groups, and communities to identify relevant First Nations persons for other coastal and sea country areas for which consultation or other engagement may be or has been required in relation to offshore activities. To date TEACA has established 11 committees which cover coastal areas extending from the NT/WA border to Arnhem Bay in the Top End.

Most recently TEACA has been working to ensure that the offshore gas industry is properly consulting with First Nations persons and communities in coastal areas of the Top End as required under the offshore petroleum legislation. TEACA's work ensures that 'relevant persons' (as that term is captured under legislation and which extends to First Nations persons and communities) are properly consulted, are given the opportunity to comment on offshore activities, and know what is occurring in their sea country. This work is crucial to helping to protect the rights and interests of First Nations persons in relation to their sea country and prior to TEACA filling this gap, no other organisations, or bodies have undertaken this work despite there having been substantial offshore activity occurring off the Top End coast (within Commonwealth waters) since the 1960s. TEACA is an independent organisation and intends to work with all industries, government and other organisations to ensure that First Nations persons rights and interests are protected in relation to activities occurring in offshore coastal waters (that area that extends beyond the areas which are subject to the *Aboriginal Land Rights*

(Northern Territory) Act 1976 (Cth)).

TEACA is not currently receiving any funding and would like to discuss funding opportunities that are available under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy.

TEACA has identified some current grant opportunities detailed on the Grant Connect website which may be suitable, and it would like to meet with NIAA's Darwin office to discuss these further and other possible grant opportunities which it may not be aware of. Of course TEACA is able to provide further information if required.

Could you please provide this email to your colleagues as discussed so that a suitable time can be arranged for TEACA to meet with NIAA's Darwin office to discuss the above. I look forward to your response and thank you in advance.

I can be contacted on **s47F** or by return email.

Kind Regards

Julius Kernan

TEACA Chairperson

**From:** **s22**  
**To:** [Julius "Clint" Kernal](#)  
**Cc:** **s22** ; **s22**  
**Subject:** RE: TEACA and NIAA meeting  
**Date:** Monday, 12 August 2024 4:47:18 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[form-community-initiated-initial-proposal.pdf](#)

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Hi Julius,

Apologies for the delay in getting back to you. I'm sending through some further information following on from our meeting.

There could be an opportunity for TEACA to apply for funding through the Indigenous Advancement Strategy program area 1.1 Jobs, Lands and Economy. You can find the grant opportunity guidelines including details about eligibility requirements and what is / is not in scope for program area 1.1 on Grant Connect: [Current Grant Opportunity View - GO4985: GrantConnect \(grants.gov.au\)](#)

If you would like to be considered for funding through the IAS, please complete the attached initial proposal form to give us a better understanding about what it is you are requesting funding for. This short proposal will be reviewed, and NIAA will determine whether or not we invite a full application for grant assessment.

Another funding opportunity you may want to explore is NTAIC's Community Impact and Innovation Grant, which will open 1 October 2024. Further details can be found here: [NTAIC Grants Program – Northern Territory Aboriginal Investment Corporation](#)

Many thanks,

**s22**

**s22** | Assistant Director, Engagement  
Top End and Tiwi Islands | Central Group  
National Indigenous Australians Agency

e. **s22** [w. niaa.gov.au](#)  
p. **s22** [m. s22](#)  
Larrakia Country  
Jacana House 39-41 Woods Street Darwin NT 0800 | PO Box 9932

---



The National Indigenous Australians Agency acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the elders past, present and emerging.



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**From:** **s22**

**Sent:** Thursday, July 11, 2024 4:02 PM

**To:** Julius 'Clint' Kernan <**s47F**>

**Cc:** **s22**

**s22**; **s47F**

**Subject:** RE: TEACA and NIAA meeting

Thanks Julius,

I've sent you a meeting invitation for next Thursday.

Warm regards,

**s22**

**s22** | Assistant Director, Engagement

Top End and Tiwi Islands | Central Group

National Indigenous Australians Agency

e. **s22** w. [nbia.gov.au](http://nbia.gov.au)

p. **s22** m. **s22**

Larrakia Country

Jacana House 39-41 Woods Street Darwin NT 0800 | PO Box 9932

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**From:** Julius 'Clint' Kernan <**s47F**>

**Sent:** Thursday, July 11, 2024 3:44 PM

**To:** **s22**

**Cc:** **s22**

**s22**; **s47F**

**Subject:** Re: TEACA and NIAA meeting

Hello **s22**,

Thank you for your invitation to meet with NIAA.

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July we are available to meet from 8:00 - 9:45 am only, as TEACA have a prior engagement from 10am to 4pm on the 18<sup>th</sup> at another location in Darwin CBD.

If it suits you, we propose an in-person meeting at your offices from 08:30 - 9:45 am on Thursday 18 July.

If our proposed time does not suit you, please advise your availability to meet on any other day next week either online or in-person.

Kind Regards,

Julius Kernan  
Chairperson  
Top End Aboriginal Coastal Alliance Incorporated  
E: **s47F**



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**From:** **s22**  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 11, 2024 2:29 PM  
**To:** **s47F**  
**Cc:** **s22**  
**Subject:** TEACA and NIAA meeting

Good afternoon Julius,

I'm following up on your request for a meeting to discuss funding opportunities with the NIAA - apologies for the delay in getting back to you.

Do you have availability next Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> for a meeting? And if so, please advise if you would like to come to the NIAA office or meet online.

Many thanks,

**s22**

**s22** | Assistant Director, Engagement  
Top End and Tiwi Islands | Central Group  
National Indigenous Australians Agency

e. **s22** w. [nbiaa.gov.au](http://nbiaa.gov.au)  
p. **s22** m. **s22**  
Larrakia Country  
Jacana House 39-41 Woods Street Darwin NT 0800 | PO Box 9932



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---

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*Working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples*

## Community Initiated - Initial Proposal Form

### Instructions

This form is used to describe a proposed activity that addresses a need for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS).

Before completing this form, please check GrantConnect ([grants.gov.au](http://grants.gov.au)) for other funding opportunities that may align with your proposed activity.

Before completing this form, please contact your local NIAA Regional Office on 1800 079 098 to discuss your proposal.

### Notes

This Initial Proposal Form is not an application for grant funding.

The Agency will review your initial proposal in the context of whether you meet the criteria in the Agency Collaborates Grant Opportunity Guidelines and whether the proposal aligns with regional strategies, program priorities and funding availability.

If after this review the Agency considers your initial proposal is within scope, we will invite you to apply and an application form will be provided.

If the Agency does not recommend that your proposal progress to an application, you will be advised and feedback will be provided.

### Privacy Notice

The National Indigenous Australians Agency (the Agency) is collecting your personal information for the purposes of assessing and processing your Community Initiated – Initial Proposal Form.

For the same purposes, we may disclose personal information to the parties listed at paragraph 14.3 of the Agency Collaborates Grant Opportunity Guidelines (GOGs). This includes those involved in the assessment of your application, contractors of the Commonwealth, Parliament and other government agencies. We may also use de-identified information for the purposes of reporting to other agencies, Parliament and the public.

Providing the requested information is voluntary. If you choose not to provide us with your information we may not be able to assess and process your application.

The Agency will not provide the information collected from you to anyone else outside the Agency (other than the other parties listed at paragraph 13.4 of the Agency Collaborates GOGs), unless you have given consent for us to do this, or we are authorised or required to do so by law.

The privacy and security of your personal information is important to us, and is protected by law. The Agency's Privacy Policy explains how the Agency handles and protects the information provided by you. The Agency's Privacy Policy also explains how you can request access to or correct the personal information we hold about you, and who to contact if you have a privacy enquiry or complaint. If you require a copy of our Privacy Policy contact the Privacy Officer at [privacy@niaa.gov.au](mailto:privacy@niaa.gov.au).

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**1. Organisation Details**

Organisation Legal Name

Organisation ABN

---

**2. Organisation Address Details**

Floor/Building

Street Number and Name

Suburb

State

Post Code

Main Telephone

Main Email

Contact Name

---

**3. Provide a brief overview of your organisation (max 400 characters)**

## Part 2 - Project Details

---

**4. Provide a short title for this Project (max 250 characters)**

---

**6. Where will the Project be delivered? (max 400 characters)**

---

**7. Planned Start and End dates for the Project**

Start Date (dd/mm/yyyy)

End Date (dd/mm/yyyy)

---

**8. What emerging community need or opportunity is the project addressing?  
Provide supporting evidence where relevant? (max 1200 characters)**

9. How have the Indigenous Australians who will benefit from the project been involved in its development? Include which key stakeholders have been involved and would be involved in the future? (max 1200 characters)

---

10. Based on the details in this initial proposal what is the approximate amount of grant funding you would be seeking if you were to submit an application?

1st Financial Year

2nd Financial Year

3rd Financial Year

4th Financial Year

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11. Will there be other sources of funding for the project? If yes, please provide details. (max 400 characters)

---

## Part 4 - Submission

**Name of person authorised to submit this proposal on behalf of the organisation.**

Title

Contact Name

Position

Date

**From:** s47F  
**To:** s22  
**Cc:** Julius "Clint" Kernan; s22  
**Subject:** Re: TEACA and NIAA meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, 13 August 2024 2:44:46 PM  
**Attachments:** image001.png  
image002.png  
image003.png  
image004.png  
image005.png  
image006.png  
[TEACA Powerpoint \(Grants\) - 2024 \(v2\).pptx](#)  
[FNCC Map \(Confidential\).docx](#)

---

Hello s22

Thank you for your email and the further information.

Please find attached the TEACA presentation as requested as well as a map of the areas covered by the various First Nations Consultative Committees. Please treat these documents as Confidential as they have not yet been finalised nor released publicly.

We will revert shortly regarding the information you have sent through.

Kind Regards  
Julius Kernan

On Mon, Aug 12, 2024 at 4:17 PM s22

wrote:

Hi Julius,

Apologies for the delay in getting back to you. I'm sending through some further information following on from our meeting.

There could be an opportunity for TEACA to apply for funding through the Indigenous Advancement Strategy program area 1.1 Jobs, Lands and Economy. You can find the grant opportunity guidelines including details about eligibility requirements and what is / is not in scope for program area 1.1 on Grant Connect: [Current Grant Opportunity View - GO4985: GrantConnect \(grants.gov.au\)](#)

If you would like to be considered for funding through the IAS, please complete the attached initial proposal form to give us a better understanding about what it is you are requesting funding for. This short proposal will be reviewed, and NIAA will determine whether or not we invite a full application for grant assessment.

Another funding opportunity you may want to explore is NTAIC's Community Impact and Innovation Grant, which will open 1 October 2024. Further details can be found here: [NTAIC Grants Program – Northern Territory Aboriginal Investment Corporation](#)

**From:** [Julius "Clint" Kernan](#)  
**To:** [s22](#)  
**Cc:** [s22](#) | [s47F](#)  
**Subject:** Re: TEACA and NIAA meeting  
**Date:** Friday, 16 August 2024 1:18:48 PM  
**Attachments:** [TEACA Powerpoint \(Grants\) - 2024 \(v2\).pptx](#)

---

Hi [s22](#)

Please find attached following our recent meeting, a copy of the presentation and the map which we presented at the meeting.

Could I kindly request that you not circulate these documents outside of your organisation.

Kind Regards  
Julius Kernan

On Thu, Jul 11, 2024 at 4:01 PM [s22](#) wrote:

Thanks Julius,

I've sent you a meeting invitation for next Thursday.

Warm regards,

[s22](#)

[s22](#) | Assistant Director, Engagement

Top End and Tiwi Islands | Central Group  
National Indigenous Australians Agency

e. [s22](#) w. [nbiaa.gov.au](#)

p. [s22](#) m. [s22](#)

Larrakia Country

Jacana House 39-41 Woods Street Darwin NT 0800 | PO Box 9932



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**From:** Julius 'Clint' Kerman <s47F>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 11, 2024 3:44 PM  
**To:** s22  
**Cc:** s22  
s22 | s47F  
**Subject:** Re: TEACA and NIAA meeting

Hello s22 ,

Thank you for your invitation to meet with NIAA.

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July we are available to meet from 8:00 - 9:45 am only, as TEACA have a prior engagement from 10am to 4pm on the 18<sup>th</sup> at another location in Darwin CBD.

If it suits you, we propose an in-person meeting at your offices from 08:30 - 9:45 am on Thursday 18 July.

If our proposed time does not suit you, please advise your availability to meet on any other day next week either online or in-person.

Kind Regards,

Julius Kernan

Chairperson

Top End Aboriginal Coastal Alliance Incorporated

E: s47F

?

**From:** s22**Sent:** Thursday, July 11, 2024 2:29 PM**To:** s47F**Cc:** s22**Subject:** TEACA and NIAA meeting

Good afternoon Julius,

I'm following up on your request for a meeting to discuss funding opportunities with the NIAA - apologies for the delay in getting back to you.

Do you have availability next Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> for a meeting? And if so, please advise if you would like to come to the NIAA office or meet online.

Many thanks,

s22

s22 | Assistant Director, Engagement

Top End and Tiwi Islands | Central Group  
National Indigenous Australians Agency

e. s22 w. [niaa.gov.au](http://niaa.gov.au)

p. s22 m. s22

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**From:** [Julius "Clint" Kernan](#)  
**To:** [s22](#)  
**Cc:** [s22](#) [s47F](#)  
**Subject:** Re: TEACA and NIAA meeting  
**Date:** Friday, 30 August 2024 10:29:05 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[Outlook-30gw2mtl.png](#)  
[NIAA Preliminary Application Form.pdf](#)

---

Dear [s22](#)

Thank you for your recent email attaching the Community Initiated - Initial Proposal Form.

Apologies for the delay as TEACA was in the process of applying for an ABN.

Please find attached the completed form.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards

**Julius Kernan**

Chairperson

Top End Aboriginal Coastal Alliance Incorporated

E: [s47F](#)



On Mon, Aug 12, 2024 at 4:17 PM [s22](#)  
wrote:

Hi Julius,

Apologies for the delay in getting back to you. I'm sending through some further information following on from our meeting.

There could be an opportunity for TEACA to apply for funding through the Indigenous Advancement Strategy program area 1.1 Jobs, Lands and Economy. You can find the grant opportunity guidelines including details about eligibility requirements and what is / is not in scope for program area 1.1 on Grant Connect: [Current Grant Opportunity View - GO4985: GrantConnect \(grants.gov.au\)](#)

**From:** s22  
**To:** s47F  
**Subject:** TEACA Initial Proposal  
**Date:** Wednesday, 6 November 2024 3:56:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[Letter to TEACA.docx](#)  
**Importance:** High

---

Dear Julius,

Thank you for submitting the Top End Aboriginal Coastal Alliance's (TEACA) proposal for your 'Operational Requirements'. NIAA have reviewed the application and looking forward to working with you to collect more information's. Please find attached letter for more details.

Thanks

s22

Engagement Assistant Director, |GEC  
Top End and Tiwi Islands Region | Central Group  
National Indigenous Australians Agency  
p. s22 m. s22  
Jacana House Level 5 39-41 Woods Street DARWIN NT 0800 | GPO Box 9932 DARWIN NT 0801  
e. s22 | w. [nbia.gov.au](http://nbia.gov.au) | w. [indigenous.gov.au](http://indigenous.gov.au)



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Mr Kernan  
Top End Aboriginal Coastal Alliance

Dear Mr Kernan

Thank you for submitting the Top End Aboriginal Coastal Alliance's (TEACA) proposal for your 'Operational Requirements'. The National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) have reviewed the application and supporting material.

The NIAA appreciate the importance of ensuring Aboriginal peoples of the Top End are supported and able to engage with government, industry and NGOs for offshore matters. However, we are keen to ensure stakeholders are supportive and have the opportunity to input into any models of representation. As such, to further investigate the proposal, the NIAA would need to consider this application more broadly within the context and structure of existing frameworks. This would include discussion and consultation with broader stakeholders, to understand the need and appetite for this proposal and also how it fits in within the landscape of other existing bodies who represent relevant groups or work in matters pertaining to offshore and sea country such as the Northern Land Council (NLC), Tiwi Land Council (TLC), Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) and the National Native Title Council (NNNC).

We are keen to understand more about the gaps identified by TEACA and ensure there is no potential duplication that could come from this proposal. Would TEACA be supportive of the NIAA discussing the proposal with stakeholder in the region, and/or other existing representative bodies/organisation, to better understand what is already being done in the sector, where gaps exist and what stakeholder are seeking in the region? With your agreement, we would also be keen to seek the views of the offshore regulator (NOPSEMA) to get a better sense of how these matters are currently being addressed. We would not need to divulge specific details about the proposal at this stage, but rather keen understand broader stakeholder views at a concept level. Alternatively, if you do not wish for us to engage with other stakeholders' proposal, we would ask if you could instead provide any further details of any stakeholder consultation you have already undertaken, as a first step.

*Please advise if you would like to discuss further or if you are happy for us to consult with other bodies regarding offshore and sea country representation and TEACA's proposal. If you have any questions, please contact s22 on s22 or email s22.*

Yours sincerely

s22

s22

Engagement Officer  
Top End Tiwi Islands Region  
National Indigenous Australians Agency

**From:** [Julius "Clint" Kernan](#)  
**To:** [s22](#)  
**Cc:** [s22](#)  
**Subject:** CONFIDENTIAL TEACA Letter - 14 January 2024 RE: TEACA Initial Proposal  
**Date:** Tuesday, 14 January 2025 7:40:30 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-okcwuirh.png](#)  
[250114 TEACA Itr NIAA - CONFIDENTIAL.pdf](#)

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Dear [s22](#),

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Please find attached confidential letter from the Top End Aboriginal Coastal Alliance Inc.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding the next steps in relation to our Initial Proposal for Operational Requirements and related matters.

Kind Regards,

Julius Kernan  
Chairperson  
Top End Aboriginal Coastal Alliance Incorporated  
E: [s47F](#)



**From:** **s22**  
**To:** [Julius "Clint" Kernan](#)  
**Cc:** **s22**  
**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL TEACA Letter - 14 January 2024 RE: TEACA Initial Proposal  
**Date:** Wednesday, 22 January 2025 5:14:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

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Dear Julius,

I would like to acknowledge receipt of your respond to NIAA letter dated 06/11/2024 and subsequent meeting held in your office on Monday 16/12/2024. Thank you for your time to meet with us and the national team who joined us online. I can get back to you after discussions with my national colleagues soon regarding the suggested consultations as stipulated in your respond.

Thanks

**s22**

Engagement Assistant Director | GEC  
Top End and Tiwi Islands Region | Central Group  
National Indigenous Australians Agency  
p. **s22** m. **s22**  
Jacana House Level 5 39-41 Woods Street DARWIN NT 0800 | GPO Box 9932 DARWIN NT 0801  
e. **s22** | w. [nbia.gov.au](#) | w. [indigenous.gov.au](#)



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---

**From:** Julius 'Clint' Kernan <**s47F**>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 14 January 2025 6:10 PM

**To:** **s22**

**Cc:** **s22**

**Subject:** CONFIDENTIAL TEACA Letter - 14 January 2024 RE: TEACA Initial Proposal

Dear **s22**,

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Please find attached confidential letter from the Top End Aboriginal Coastal Alliance Inc.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding the next steps in relation to our Initial Proposal for Operational Requirements and related matters.

Kind Regards,

Julius Kernan  
Chairperson  
Top End Aboriginal Coastal Alliance Incorporated  
E: **S47F**



OFFICIAL

**Data and evidence:**Other precedents and models

15. **s47F** could draw upon several successful examples of First Nations river groups across Australia. Meeting these groups could be explored through a proof-of-concept phase potentially funded by the NIAA.

A large redacted area consisting of a grey rectangle with the letters 's22' printed in red in the center.

b. Top End Aboriginal Coastal Alliance (TEACA). While currently unfunded, TEACA aims to represent the interests of Top End Aboriginal peoples and engage with government, industry, and NGOs on offshore matters. The NIAA TETI regional office is assisting TEACA in securing grant funding for operational costs.

A large redacted area consisting of a grey rectangle with the letters 's22' printed in red in the center.A large redacted area consisting of a grey rectangle with the letters 's22' printed in red in the center.

**From:** Julius "Clint" Kernan  
**To:** s22  
**Cc:** s22  
**Subject:** Re: CONFIDENTIAL TEACA Letter - 14 January 2025 RE: TEACA Initial Proposal  
**Date:** Thursday, 13 March 2025 5:52:27 PM  
**Attachments:** Outlook-0kcvuirh.png  
**Importance:** High

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CONFIDENTIAL

Dear s22,

I hope this email finds you well.

I note that approximately 2 months have passed since TEACA provided you with our letter dated 14 January 2025 and that the TEACA Community Initiated - Initial Proposal Form (funding bid) was submitted to the NIAA more than six months ago in August 2024.

I write now to kindly request an update from the NIAA in relation the matters set out in our letter of 14 January and specifically regarding the status of TEACA's funding bid.

I understand that these matters take time for due consideration and response, however it is a fact that TEACA's requirement for funding is now urgent. We are concerned that if we do not receive a positive response prior to the Federal election being called that our funding bid will be subject to additional delay due to Government caretaker mode restrictions.

Given the time that has passed and the urgency of our funding requirement, we feel that we may be left with little choice but to raise this matter directly with the Minister for Indigenous Australians in the event we do not receive a satisfactory response to our funding bid and related communications prior to the commencement of Commonwealth Government caretaker period, which is likely to be very soon.

I look forward to receiving the requested status update at the earliest opportunity.

Please feel to call me on s47F should you wish to discuss this matter with me.

Kind Regards,  
 Julius Kernan  
 Chairperson  
 Top End Aboriginal Coastal Alliance Incorporated  
 E:s47F




---

**From:** Julius 'Clint' Kernan <s47F>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2025 6:09 PM  
**To:** s22  
**Cc:** s22  
**Subject:** CONFIDENTIAL TEACA Letter - 14 January 2024 RE: TEACA Initial Proposal

Dear s22,

CONFIDENTIAL

Please find attached confidential letter from the Top End Aboriginal Coastal Alliance Inc.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding the next steps in relation to our Initial Proposal for Operational Requirements and related matters.

Kind Regards,

Julius Kernan  
 Chairperson  
 Top End Aboriginal Coastal Alliance Incorporated  
 E:s47F

**From:** Julius 'Clint' Kernan <**s47F**>

**Sent:** Saturday, 22 March 2025 2:53 PM

**To:** **s47F**

**Subject:** Top End Aboriginal Coastal Alliance Inc. request meeting with Minister McCarthy

Dear **s47F**,

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me at the Minister's office the other day, it was very nice to meet you in person.

Following up on our discussion, I am writing to kindly request a meeting with Senator the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy in the Senator's capacity as Minister for Indigenous Australians and as the Minister with oversight of the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA).

I am seeking a meeting with the Minister on behalf of the Top End Aboriginal Coastal Alliance Inc. (TEACA), an Association of which I am the Chairperson. TEACA is a 100% First Nations owned and operated incorporated association registered in the Northern Territory with approximately 200 members from across the Top End coastal regions from the Victoria River region in the West to Elcho Island in East Arnhem Land.

The purpose of our requested meeting is to brief the Minister on TEACA's primary objectives and activities undertaken to date and our priority future plans. We also wish to discuss a funding bid that TEACA submitted to the NIAA in August 2024 (Community Initiated Proposal), and in relation to which we wrote to NIAA most recently on 13 March 2025 to request a substantive and urgent response in relation to the status of our funding proposal. We are yet to receive a reply to both our email of 13 March and our previous correspondence to the NIAA (email with letter dated 14 January 2025).

Representing TEACA at the requested meeting would be myself, and if available, I will seek to include the following TEACA Management Committee members:

- **s47F** - TEACA Secretary (Wurrumiyanga) ; and
- **s47F** - TEACA Membership Officer (Fitzroy Station - Timber Creek).

We appreciate that the Minister likely has a busy travel and meeting schedule, as do I. TEACA and our members would be extremely grateful for the opportunity to meet with the Minister. If there is availability in the Minister's schedule during March-April (preferred) or May 2025. Furthermore, I am willing and prepared to travel to meet with the Minister at any suitable location, including interstate if necessary, during 4 - 27 April (Period #1) and again during 3 - 23 May (Period #2).

In the case there is alignment with the Minister's travel plans, to assist you in identifying a potential suitable meeting date and location, I am happy to provide you with my planned movements over the coming months as follows:

- 25 March: Maningrida.
- 26 - 27 March: Jabiru.

- 28 - 30 March: Darwin.
- 31 March - 3 April: Jabiru.
- 4 April: Darwin.
- 5 - 27 April: Maningrida (Period #1 - free to travel to meet Minister).
- 28 April - 2 May: Jabiru and Milingimbi.
- 3 - 22 May: Maningrida (Period #2 - free to travel to meet Minister).
- 23 - 24 May: Darwin.
- 25 - 30 May: Brisbane (deliver TEACA presentation at AEP Conference).

I look forward to receiving your response.

Please feel free to call me on **s47F** should you have any questions or otherwise wish to discuss this matter.

Kind Regards,

**Julius Kernan**

Chairperson

Top End Aboriginal Coastal Alliance Incorporated

E: **s47F**



**Key Points:**

1. On 30 July 2025 an Order for the Production of Documents (the Order) was moved by Senator Lidia Thorpe and agreed by the Senate (**Attachment B-C**). The Order is as follows:

That there be laid on the table by the Minister for Indigenous Australians, by no later than 10 am on Monday, 1 September 2025, all written or digital correspondence, all attachments to any written or digital correspondence, briefing materials, text messages, file notes, meeting notices or minutes or other records of interaction since 1 October 2023, between the Minister for Indigenous Australians or her office, the Northern Land Council (NLC) and/or the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), related to:

- a. the ascertainment and management of conflicts of interest of NLC councillors, directors and senior staff, including but not limited to connections to and involvement with proponents;
- b. the involvement of NLC councillors, directors or senior staff with the gas industry, including but not limited to Australian Energy Producers Ltd, Santos Ltd, Tamboran Resources Ltd and/or Beetaloo Energy Australia Ltd (formerly Empire Energy Group Ltd); or
- c. the involvement of NLC councillors, directors or senior staff with Good Advice Pty Ltd and/or the Top End Aboriginal Coastal Alliance Inc.

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- c. There are examples of successful First Nations River groups across Australia that could be explored for proof-of-concept.

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ii. Top End Aboriginal Coastal Alliance.

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