

Background

In November 2020, the Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP, approved \$100 million from the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) to go to the four Northern Territory land councils to 'support Aboriginal businesses and jobs'. The Central Land Council (CLC) has received \$36.7 million of this funding which is referred to here as *ABA Economic Stimulus* funding (Stimulus funding). The CLC is working with Aboriginal businesses and organisations and other stakeholders to identify projects that will support these aims and create benefits for CLC constituents.

What can Stimulus funding be spent on?

Funding can only be spent on projects that align with one or more of these principles:

- **Investing in existing Indigenous community businesses** so they can adapt and deliver.
- **Investing in Aboriginal-owned infrastructure** to connect people to economic opportunities, including pastoral, tourism, gas and mining opportunities.
- **Building the skills of men and women on Country** through rangers, learning on Country programs and workplace experiences.
- **Investing in small-scale infrastructure projects** to create jobs and improve the potential of Aboriginal land, such as fencing, water infrastructure and homelands upgrades.
- **Maximising the ABA investment through co-investment** and co-ordination with other government funding streams and contributions from corporate and philanthropic sectors.

What about Stimulus funding for outstation upgrades?

To be fair to constituents, the CLC has decided that Stimulus funding for outstation upgrades can only be used in these situations:

1. The outstation has been prioritised under the CLC ABA Outstation Project and received funding but the funding doesn't cover all of the work identified during this process.
2. The outstation was prioritised under the CLC ABA Outstation Project but didn't get approved for funding.
3. The outstation has been identified as a priority by constituents through CLC community development processes.

The CLC understands the importance of outstations and supports constituents' aspirations. CLC is committed to continuing to advocate for much needed funding for outstations.

If my outstation is eligible, how much funding is available?

- If your outstation has already received funding from the ABA Outstation Project, up to \$50,000 is available for outstation upgrades.
- If your outstation was prioritised under the ABA Outstation Project but didn't get funding, up to \$200,000 is available for outstation upgrades.
- If your outstation has been prioritised through community development processes, up to \$200,000 is available for outstation upgrades.

Examples of types of things that can be funded

√	Structures- minor repairs to structures on the outstation Or construction of structures other than new houses e.g. shade structures, ablution block
√	Water- minor repairs or replacements to upgrade water infrastructure e.g. water pumping equipment and water tanks.
√	Power- minor repairs or replacements to upgrade power supply infrastructure e.g. generators, solar power system
√	Sewerage- minor repairs and replacement to upgrade sewerage infrastructure e.g. installation of long drop toilet facilities, repairs and maintenance to community ablutions and pumping of septic systems.
√	Communications- upgrades to infrastructure that would improve mobile phone, internet and radio communications.
√	Fencing- repairs to fencing or new fencing for the outstation.

If you are not sure if the work you want to be done is eligible, call the CLC Economic Participation Unit- (08) 8951 6211.

What is the process for applying for funding?

If your outstation has been prioritised under the ABA Outstation Project, you will need to send the application form to your resource centre. The resource centre has to agree to do the work before funding can be approved. Funding will be given to resource centres to do the work.

If your outstation has been prioritised through CLC community development processes, Speak to the Community Development officer in your region.

If you are not sure about the process, call the CLC Economic Participation Unit- (08) 8951 6211.