



Indigenous Rangers Program Expansion Round 2

Consultation Summary

Following the conclusion of the first round of the Indigenous Rangers Program (IRP) Expansion grant opportunity, the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) conducted a consultation process to seek feedback from Indigenous Rangers stakeholders on the parameters and preferences for Round 2 of the IRP Expansion.

The NIAA asked people and groups with an interest in the Indigenous land and water management sector to have their say, including via an online survey published on the NIAA website and distributed to Ranger networks (open from December 2024 to January 2025) and conducted workshops with key sector stakeholders. The survey yielded over 100 responses, indicating the high level of interest in the program. Feedback was also received from applicants during the Round 1 application period. The NIAA would like to thank those who took the time to contribute.

The following feedback comes from a range of stakeholders who responded to the consultation process, including ranger groups, Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs), Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) organisations, Land Councils, and more. Feedback gathered during the consultation has been important in strengthening the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for Round 2 of the IRP Expansion.

What we heard

While responses were diverse, overall, respondents indicated strong support for Round 2 to be a national, open, competitive and merit-based process, rather than proposing state or territory targets.

Feedback reaffirmed the importance of women's participation in Ranger groups. It was noted that achieving equality in women ranger positions would be best supported by consideration to how the program could fund separate operating costs, adapting programs to suit women's activities, and reflecting local cultural and community needs, rather than a fixed numerical target.

There was support for increasing the IRP in IPAs without current groups, but feedback generally prioritised expanding the IRP footprint in general instead of specifically within IPAs.

While there was some support to cap a maximum number of positions per application (full time equivalent or FTE), overwhelming feedback highlighted a need for flexibility to adapt to the needs of different sized organisations. Feedback also noted that smaller, newer organisations need a larger proportion of funding per FTE to support set up costs.

A prevalent theme of concern was that previously unsuccessful and/or smaller organisations would have limited chances of success if applicants successful in Round 1 of the IRP Expansion were eligible to reapply in Round 2.

There was broad support for better sector strengthening, support and cohesion, and suggestions that the Round 2 process could ask applicants to demonstrate how they intend to work cooperatively within the broader sector.

Consultation also indicated Round 2 should consider supporting and strengthening the Rangers sector and workforce, including better integration between groups and with other Ranger programs at the Commonwealth, state and territory level.

