



Position Title:	Economic Development Officer – Sea Country	Position No:	DS52
Group:	Land and Sea Management	Service Area:	Sea Country
Reports to:	Coordinator Business and Programs – Sea Country (DS45)	Direct Reports:	Nil
Classification Level	Senior Professional Officer - SPO		
Location:	Darwin	Date Approved:	October 2026
Special Measures:	<i>Yes -Priority Consideration Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Positions</i>		

POSITION OVERVIEW

The Economic Development Officer – Sea Country is a senior professional position responsible for providing strategic advice, professional leadership and specialist expertise in economic development, community investment, governance and enterprise development across the Sea Country Service Area.

The role leads the assessment, development and implementation of community led economic development opportunities and provides specialist advice to Traditional Owners, management and stakeholders on economic participation, governance, investment and partnership opportunities. The position contributes to long-term economic development outcomes by strengthening governance capability, developing strategic partnerships and supporting evidence-based decision making.

Acting as a recognised subject matter expert, the role applies a high degree of professional judgement to complex development, governance and investment matters and contributes to the achievement of Sea Country strategic priorities.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES & ACCOUNTABILITIES

- Lead culturally appropriate workshops, consultations and engagement with Traditional Owners, Aboriginal people and organisations to identify economic aspirations and translate those aspirations into clearly defined opportunities, projects, options and development pathways
- Provide professional leadership and specialist advice on economic development opportunities, governance arrangements and investment initiatives within the Sea Country Service Area.
- Act as a recognised subject matter expert in community-led economic development, enterprise development and benefit-sharing initiatives.
- Lead the assessment and progression of economic development opportunities from concept through to implementation planning, including undertaking research, feasibility assessment, business case development, risk analysis and coordination of specialist advice to support informed decision-making.
- Design, implement and continuously improve governance frameworks and systems that strengthen Traditional Owner decision-making, investment oversight, accountability and long-term sustainability, while providing specialist governance advice to Traditional Owner groups, Aboriginal corporations and partnership bodies.
- Prepare or coordinate business cases, feasibility studies, investment proposals, risk assessments, funding applications, briefing papers and recommendations to support informed Traditional Owner and NLC decision-making.
- Lead the development, negotiation and management of strategic partnerships with government, industry, philanthropic and Aboriginal-controlled organisations, including identifying funding, investment and co-investment opportunities that support long-term community benefit.



- Represent the NLC and Traditional Owner interests in government, industry and stakeholder forums within delegated authority, negotiating practical development outcomes and partnership opportunities.
- Monitor emerging economic development trends, risks and opportunities and provide strategic advice, reports, briefing papers and recommendations that inform policy development, organisational planning and sustainable development outcomes.
- Contribute to the development of policies, frameworks and programs that strengthen Aboriginal economic participation, governance capability and sustainable development outcomes.
- Follow all NLC policies and procedures to make sure work is carried out to the right standards
- Take on other reasonable tasks within your role, classification, service area and skills when needed
- Follow the NLC Code of Conduct, working in a professional, respectful, and collaborative way with your team and the wider organisation
- Take part in performance reviews and any learning and development needed for your role
- Look after your own health and safety and make sure your work does not put others at risk
- Report any hazards or incidents to your supervisor straight away and complete any required reports on time

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POSITION REQUIREMENTS

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Relevant tertiary qualification in Economic Development, Community Development, Business, Regional Development, Indigenous Development or a related discipline, or equivalent professional experience.
- Proven experience leading economic development, community development, governance, investment or enterprise initiatives within complex stakeholder environments.
- Experience working with Aboriginal communities, Traditional Owners, Aboriginal Corporations or Aboriginal-controlled organisations preferably in remote or regional settings.
- Demonstrated experience developing and implementing governance frameworks, investment strategies, funding programs, benefit-sharing arrangements or community development initiatives.
- Demonstrated experience leading and managing complex, multi-party projects or economic development initiatives from initial concept through investigation, feasibility and planning, including responsibility for work plans, milestones, stakeholder coordination, timelines, risks, budgets and reporting
- Proven ability to provide specialist advice to senior leaders, governance bodies and Traditional Owner decision-making groups on economic development, investment and governance matters.
- Highly developed stakeholder engagement, negotiation and partnership-building skills.
- High-level analytical, problem-solving and communication skills, including preparation of strategic reports, business cases and investment recommendations.
- Strong understanding of Aboriginal economic development, governance, investment, social enterprise and business development models.
- Current C Class Drivers Licence and the ability and willingness to undertake remote travel in a manual 4WD vehicle or light aircraft

DESIRABLE REQUIREMENTS

- Experience or knowledge in areas relevant to Sea Country economic development, such as commercial fishing, aquaculture, tourism, or marine enterprises
- Knowledge and understanding of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth), Native Title, and other relevant statutory and regulatory frameworks applicable to Aboriginal land and sea interests in the Northern Territory
- Knowledge of economic development, employment, training, business support, funding and procurement pathways available to Aboriginal people and organisations in the Northern Territory