

Larrakia Investments Pty Ltd Submission to Backing Indigenous Ability.

Larrakia Investments is an Indigenous owned, managed and operated corporation existing for the benefit of Larrakia and Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory to secure Indigenous cultural, social and economic future. The board of management of Larrakia Investments have an extensive background in Indigenous affairs, business and broadcasting both in the Radio and Television Industry.

The Company was formed by Donna Odegaard, a Larrakia traditional Aboriginal owner for the greater Darwin and surrounding regions and the Cox Peninsular in the Northern Territory.

The concept for the submission is devised around the ability to connect Indigenous Australia through the utilisation of a technologically advanced strategic plan. The technology of the plan has been developed with the end result being a simplistic 'plug and play' form of equipment for Indigenous communities.

Digital One Stop Telecommunications Shop Action Plan

The board of Larrakia Investments has drawn on local national and international expertise to formulate user friendly and cost effective process to deliver a 'One Stop Shop' for a Telecommunications Action Plan for Remote Indigenous Communities.

The Board has formulated a Strategic Plan and Action Plan that originally set out to address access and remoteness issues associated with Indigenous communications and in consideration of the technology available through twenty-first century technology.

Digital Television

The Action Plan includes a full Indigenous digital television license – the first to be issued in Australia that has the ability, through the utilisation of a ‘clever satellite’ network, to supply Indigenous communities within the Northern Territory with an Indigenous Television Station carrying Indigenous program for Indigenous Language, Culture, Events, Indigenous news, Current Affairs, Sport and other programs.

The television network is the basis for the organisation to utilise other technologically advanced systems adapted to satellite television digital frequencies.

This technology now available to our organisation and through the utilisation of our in-house computer programmers and engineers has allowed us to address broad range communications issues within Indigenous communities. We have successfully designed, trialled and implementing our new equipment and can now offer a commercially viable and economically sustainable ‘Digital One Stop Telecommunications Shop’ for Indigenous communities.

The basis of a digital television station has allowed us through multi-streaming to carry a number of frequencies within our band. We can connect our remote communities to an Indigenous television station and they also can be connected back to the station through our specialised equipment for the purpose of editing for documentaries covering developing news, current affairs and sport for each of the communities.

The encrypted and encoded the satellite service will present the digital Indigenous television station with the ability to specifically broadcast to an individual community with their own individual program. In other words individualises programs for individualised communities - fifty communities fifty program, one hundred communities, one hundred programs.

The Digital Indigenous Broadcaster will supply to each Indigenous community within the broadcast footprint area. The ‘Plug and Play’ digital television

equipment including digital television receivers to specifically receive all the facilities and services that our submission includes multi-streaming and broadband computer access.

Multi-stream and Broadband

The digital television station will provide as a carrier will provide a broadband multi-stream internet access. As the digital television station is the supplier of the broadband internet access, the television station will include a specialised program adapted to the broadband internet stream that will sensor culturally inappropriate sites, making them unavailable to Indigenous communities. This will be implemented in consultation with the Elders and community representatives within individual Indigenous communities.

Internet services within the community will be serviced by a radio router that will provide a five kilometre radius access to our 'Plug and Play' satellite installation centres. The satellite installation centres consist of a 800 millimeter satellite dish, a smart box, electronic transmission unit for the router service, solar power and battery system to provide power. It is a stand-alone, self supported unit. In other words the Internet users within the community will not be required to connect with cable within the five kilometre radius of the community.

Indigenous Community Telephone Connections

We have successfully trialled the utilisation of a telephone system that works in association with our digital television system and we can now offer to Indigenous communities a service as a service provider with ten-cent unlimited timed on a local and national basis to Indigenous communities.

The pre-paid telephone system utilises a sim card that can be purchased from the local community council, school or library for a low two-dollar card. In addition to a sim card system we will establish a stand-alone coin operated or

swipe card operated telephone for emergency use located outside the health clinic, town council or library.

Video Conferencing

Expanding on the technology available through digital broadcasting, we have been successfully trialling high speed, real time, live to air in send and receive mode, video conferencing. Adaptation of this technology allows Indigenous communities to adapt to real time television in health clinics to enable Indigenous health clinics to be connected to live to air with a trauma and emergency centre within a city so the patient can see and talk to the doctor and the doctor can see and talk to the patient.

Additionally, this technology can be adapted to video conferencing in schools, education, health, meeting, family gathering and special events. This technology ability allows us, through encryption and encoding, to connect one community to another community exclusively. Alternatively, through this same process we can produce a live to air or pre-recorded to some or all Indigenous communities.

Through connecting Indigenous communities this technological advancement allows the Indigenous television broadcaster not only the areas covered within the Backing Indigenous Ability but also allows us to operate and service within a number of areas within Indigenous communities, finance and administration for Town Clerks and Council. The auditing and facilitating of equipment, stocks and resources can also be applied for Indigenous communities.

Our education programs may not only be targeted at children and youth through their education systems but also for adult education, CDEP, mentoring, training, and education across vast areas to connect communities with universities, schools, government agencies and community partners thus allowing community residents to be up-skilled through registered training organisations and providers.

Commercial sustainability

Our service includes the education and training of a local resident within the community with our 'Plug and Play' equipment and the supply to the community with back-up equipment so that in the event of a technical problem, we may communicate directly via satellite to our community representative of the problem. They will then be in a position to respond and service the equipment in less than a 24 hour period. We will also in conjunction with the NT Health Department formulate a joint venture partnership so that we deliver our regular service by air whether 'fixed wing' or helicopter carrier to carry an emergency response team or a doctor who may facilitate regular calls to the community via our service plans.

Viability

Our budgets and forecasts are based on the construction, establishment and infrastructure of a digital television station. The additional services we offer has a 'one off' establishment fee with an ongoing service arrangement.

The organisation, through the negotiation of joint venture sponsorship and the utilisation of telephone and other services offered will provide a sustainable organisation within the current structure within the Department Communication Information Technology and the Arts under *Connect Australia* and Backing Indigenous Ability.

As an Indigenous owned, managed and operated organisation, the aim of the Board is to develop, implement, manage an Indigenous employment Strategy creating jobs and employment and up-skilling for Indigenous communities.

Our organisation has developed, trialled and tested the equipment required to provide the above services. We are in a position to advance to the next stage of development to commence the implementation of our Business and Strategic Plans for the project.

It is the intention of the Board to formulate a joint venture with DCITA and other commercial joint venture partners to facilitate this technologically advanced this Indigenous digitalised program.

The next step is formalise this relationship and to commence the process with the Minister for the granting and development of a specialised Indigenous broadcast digital television license.

This submission is based on a partnership between the Australian Federal Government, an Indigenous owned and operated corporation and communities including regional, rural and remote.

We will contact Karen Flick Manager, Indigenous to escalate and discuss the submission to the next level.

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