



ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK — RESEARCH REGARDING MARALINGA TJARUTJA LANDS

PURPOSE

In recognition of Maralinga Tjarutja and their land ownership of Maralinga (Section 400), Emu (Section 1486) and Section 1487 (Maralinga Tjarutja lands), and their long-standing connection to country, the Engagement Framework supports researchers, including research institutions and others, by providing clarity on expectations and processes for engaging Maralinga Tjarutja on potential research activities involving Maralinga Tjarutja lands.

The Engagement Framework has been agreed by traditional owners Maralinga Tjarutja, and the South Australian (SA) and Australian governments.

MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF MARALINGA TJARUTJA LANDS

Activities to maintain and monitor the ongoing effectiveness of rehabilitation works at Maralinga are managed by the Maralinga Land and Environment Management Committee (MLEMC).

Established under the Maralinga Nuclear Test Site Handback Deed (2009), the MLEMC comprises of the traditional owners Maralinga Tjarutja, the South Australian Government, and the Commonwealth (through the Department of Industry, Science, and Resources). The MLEMC meets bi-annually with out-of-session business conducted on an as required basis.

Site maintenance activities at Maralinga and across Maralinga Tjarutja lands are ongoing. While some maintenance works are conducted on a continual basis by the Maralinga Caretaker, other work may require project activities involving contractors on site for specific periods of time.

A PERMIT IS REQUIRED BEFORE ACCESSING MARALINGA TJARUTJA LANDS

Entry onto Maralinga Tjarutja lands is managed on a permit basis. Access permits are managed and issued by Maralinga Tjarutja as are all notices and warnings required under the [Maralinga Tjarutja Land Rights Act 1984](#) and the [Radiation Protection and Control Act 2021](#). All visitors must be accompanied by an authorised representative from Maralinga Tjarutja during site visits.

RESEARCH PROPOSALS ARE TO BE ENDORSED PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Prior to the commencement of research¹ regarding Maralinga Tjarutja lands, researchers and/or research institutions are asked to inform the MLEMC of proposed activities through the MLEMC Secretariat (RemediationPolicySection@industry.gov.au). Noting meeting schedule of the MLEMC discussed above, and the remote location of the Maralinga Tjarutja Council, researchers should factor in suitable time for consultation on proposals.

¹ Investigations and studies leading to the creation of new knowledge, and/or the use of or expansion of existing knowledge, in order to establish facts, generate new concepts, methodologies and to reach new understandings and conclusions.

Researchers and research institutions should be prepared to discuss research proposals (including purpose, scope, resources, methodology and duration) with members of the MLEMC. This may include presenting the research proposal to the MLEMC and the Maralinga Tjarutja Council.

Proposals for research will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and researchers and research institutions should not automatically expect consent from Maralinga Tjarutja for activities to be conducted at site.

All proposed research involving Maralinga Tjarutja lands will be considered with respect to other activities that have the potential to overlap with the duration of the research. Researchers should prepare for the possibility that other priorities or business may need to be conducted unexpectedly and this may mean research will be rescheduled.



Australian Government



Government of South Australia

ENGAGEMENT PRINCIPLES — RESEARCH REGARDING MARALINGA TJARUTJA LANDS

CULTURALLY INFORMED

- 1 Demonstrate cultural competence and the right of the Traditional Owners, the Anangu people, to be in control of their culture have their traditional laws and customary protocols respected and recognised as Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property.

RESPECTFUL

- Conduct engagement activities in a manner that fosters mutual trust and feedback. This includes:
 - following cultural protocols and recognising and respecting Maralinga Tjarutja’s Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property.
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 - following up with Maralinga Tjarutja and MLEMC on findings and what they mean.
 - engaging Maralinga Tjarutja about publication of the research. Provide and discuss with Maralinga Tjarutja a final draft copy of your publication, prior to it being published, and follow up on any Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property commitments.
 - when asked by a third party, advise that Maralinga Tjarutja (no other Indigenous groups in the region) are the site’s Traditional Owners and managers under SA legislation.

INCLUSIVE AND MEANINGFUL

- 3 Invest in relationship building and seek Maralinga Tjarutja’s involvement in the project, including consultation about and consent to use their Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property.

TRANSPARENT

- 4 Be clear on the research topic, its purpose and goals, methodology, and the demonstrate evidence of how this work can build on any existing research conducted.

ACCESSIBLE

- 5 Provide clear, accessible, and comprehensive information. Outline how this research will be used and where and how it is intended to be published or presented.

PUBLISHED RESEARCH

- 6 The published version of any research is to be provided to Maralinga Tjarutja. Where copyright precludes the open sharing of published research, Maralinga Tjarutja are to be provided with the final draft of the research paper, as advised above (final draft before publishing).