

Fact Sheet

Setting up a fishing competition on Aboriginal waterways

- 1 Determine the status of the waterways** which will be accessed during the competition to determine whether registration or permits will be required for participants. Contact the relevant Land Council for specific considerations for setting up a fishing competition on Aboriginal waters.
- 2 Identify the Traditional Owners** of the waters on which the competition will be held.
- 3 Book a Welcome to Country** to open the competition, including a cultural ceremony (i.e. smoking ceremony) or a cultural talk about the area. Where booking a Welcome to Country is not possible, at the very least conduct an Acknowledgement of Country to pay respect to the Traditional Owners of the area
For some tips on how to conduct an Acknowledgement of Country, check out the resources on the AFANT website!
- 4 Determine if there are any sacred sites** present in the area which need to be avoided. Create a map of the area which highlights areas of cultural significance and where competitors should not go.

Where possible, consult with Traditional Owners to discuss any sacred sites in the area which must be avoided by competitors.

Alternatively, you can find out about sacred sites by applying for an Authority Certificate with the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority. The process for obtaining an Authority Certificate is extensive and quite costly, as consultations must be done with the Traditional Owners of that region. The process is usually completed within 6 months, and costs vary depending on the extend of consultation required.
- 5 Consider consulting with Traditional Owners** to workshop competition rules which are culturally sensitive and promote respect for Aboriginal culture.
- 6 Establish a robust set of competition rules** which outline Codes of Conduct with specific reference to cultural considerations, best practice catch and release methods, and rubbish control to maintain the health of the environment.
- 7 Provide all participants with an information sheet** which outlines registration/permit requirements and provide access to further reference material to advance their learning. This sheet should state the name of Traditional Owners, the language they speak, a map which outlines any sacred sites which must be avoided, and the Code of Conduct applicable to the fishing competition



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