

Indigenous Engagement Plan

Introduction

Food Futures Company (www.foodfutures.com.au) is an Australian based ag+food innovation ecosystem design firm. We work globally with governments, industry bodies, researchers, corporates, ag+food entrepreneurs, start-ups, agile SMEs and investors to accelerate the development of innovative and disruptive agri-food technologies; grow unique products and services; build new generation value chains; and assist transformational business models to become established.

Our key areas of focus are those that we believe will make a significant impact on the food system in the future including:

- Alternative proteins and plant-based food
- New food systems and technologies
- Food waste and sustainability
- Products that deliver health and wellbeing benefits including those that are personalised to meet the needs of individual consumers

As part of our commitment to creating positive change on a number of levels, we have recently launched a suite of initiatives in the Native Ag+Food sector including our *Ideas2Business* early stage accelerator program, which is the first of its kind in Australia. Programs under development and planned for 2020-21 include:

- Native ag+food scale-up incubator for more advanced ventures ready to grow in both national and international markets
- Native ag+food Tech Challenge aimed at sourcing agtech and foodtech solutions that can be adapted to address key challenges in the native ag+food sector
- Indigenous Innovator & Entrepreneurship program aimed at attracting and developing Indigenous talent to the native ag+food sector and to foster new career pathways across the native ag+food value chain
- Corporate and Investor Roundtable Series to raise awareness of the significant opportunities in the native ag+food sector and identify barriers to investment

A key objective of our work is to ensure we make a positive contribution by engaging proactively to support increased participation of Indigenous communities, Indigenous-led businesses, and young Indigenous entrepreneurs in all parts of the sector.

Statement of Principles

Food Futures Company is committed to working in partnership with the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live, learn and work. We acknowledge their continuing cultural, social, environmental and economic connection to land, sea, and community, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Food Futures Company will respectfully seek Indigenous engagement throughout every activity/process associated with any native ag+food program/initiative that we design and deliver.

This includes this Indigenous Engagement Plan which will be reviewed by our core Indigenous advisor group to ensure that no key element has been missed.

Food Futures Company has identified the following key principles that will underpin all activities and initiatives in the native ag+food sector:

- All programs will aim to have at least 50% Indigenous participation.
- Every business that we work with in the programs must subscribe to the most current access and benefit sharing protocols. This will be included as a training element in all programs and will be delivered by Indigenous leaders in this area (or with their explicit guidance if they are not available).
- All processes that we undertake will involve appropriate Indigenous engagement and representation.

Acknowledgement of Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP)

ICIP refers to the rights of Indigenous peoples to access, control and maintain their cultural heritage, including traditional knowledge, traditional cultural expression and artefacts. Article 31 of the *United Nations Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, to which Australia is a signatory, affirms that:

'Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.'

Food Futures Company recognises that the right to control ICIP incorporates both the tangible and intangible. These rights form a living heritage, reinterpreted by each new generation and is collectively owned by Indigenous peoples, families and communities of the past, present and future.

Purpose

FFCo has developed processes and principles to guide our ongoing engagement with Indigenous peoples. Through its commitment to these principles, Food Futures Company aims to:

- (i) To recognise and respect Indigenous peoples' rights to access, maintain and control their cultural heritage
- (ii) To meaningfully engage with Indigenous peoples and ensure strong Indigenous representation across all Food Futures Company activities, processes, initiatives and decision-making related to native ag+food
- (iii) To give public acknowledgement to the value and importance of ICIP as well as incorporating cultural content (delivered by Indigenous peoples) in all our native ag+food programs
- (iv) To support the right of Indigenous peoples to benefit from the use of their cultural heritage and traditional knowledge and ensure all businesses who participate in programs subscribe to the most relevant benefit sharing protocols
- (v) To establish a transparent process of engagement with Indigenous peoples and make this public via the Food Futures Company website

The specific processes in which Food Futures Company will ensure ongoing consultation and engagement with Indigenous peoples include:

Program Design:

For any native ag+food program to be developed, Food Futures Company will undertake a process of consultation interviews with a variety of Indigenous leaders and potential participants to ensure that the programs that we are developing are specifically aligned to their needs.

Selection:

Food Futures Company will appoint Indigenous members and representatives of Indigenous organisations to form part of the selection panel which will assist in the review and selection of all participants into any of our programs. The Indigenous members of the selection panel will also provide input into the design of the selection process and selection criteria. Current Indigenous members/representatives of our selection panel are:

Ms Suzanne Thompson – Chair ANFAB
Ms Dale Tilbrook – Director ANFAB
Mr Craig North – Founder Indigenous Impact Pty Ltd
Mr Michael Davis – Agribusiness Development Manager, ILSC

Mentors and Experts:

Food Futures Company will appoint a number of Indigenous mentors and experts to participate in our range of initiatives and to provide cultural support and advice to participants and the Food Futures team.

Program Content:

Food Futures Company will ensure that there is a significant focus on Indigenous culture, acknowledgement and respect for Traditional Knowledge, and importance of Access and Benefit Sharing protocols. This content will be developed in consultation with Indigenous experts and where possible, delivered by them.

Employment:

Food Futures Company will seek to recruit an Indigenous team member to be involved in our native ag+food programs and we are currently also exploring with a number of Universities the opportunity for placement of Indigenous interns with Food Futures Company and into program participant teams.