

Aboriginal Land Management Services as Fee for Service

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What are Aboriginal Land Management Services?

Aboriginal land management services can include a very broad spectrum of activities and stakeholders, including those related to natural resource management (fire breaks, weeds control, feral animal control, restoration work, fencing), as well as research and cultural/heritage management related services which may include more specialised ecological surveys and monitoring. Aboriginal Land and Sea Ranger groups are generally, but not exclusively, the people that provide these services as part of their ‘two - toolbox’ approach to land management which is a merger of old-ways (traditional) and ‘new ways’ (conventional western land management practice). Ranger groups consist of, or have input from, Traditional Owners of that country to ensure the objectives and outputs of land management are in line with cultural custodial decision making and practice. It is important that this cultural input continues and to ensure this requires local governance and empowerment through a model such as presented in this poster.

What Aboriginal Land Management services are currently being provided as fee for service?

Fire management (abatement, reduce carbon); weed control; feral animal control; AQIS mosquito/blood; coastal management; coastal surveillance; illegal foreign fishing vessel surveillance; ghost net surveillance; feral ant management; land rehabilitation (landscaping and vegetation); cultural site management; fauna and flora surveys; fencing; fire breaks; water quality monitoring

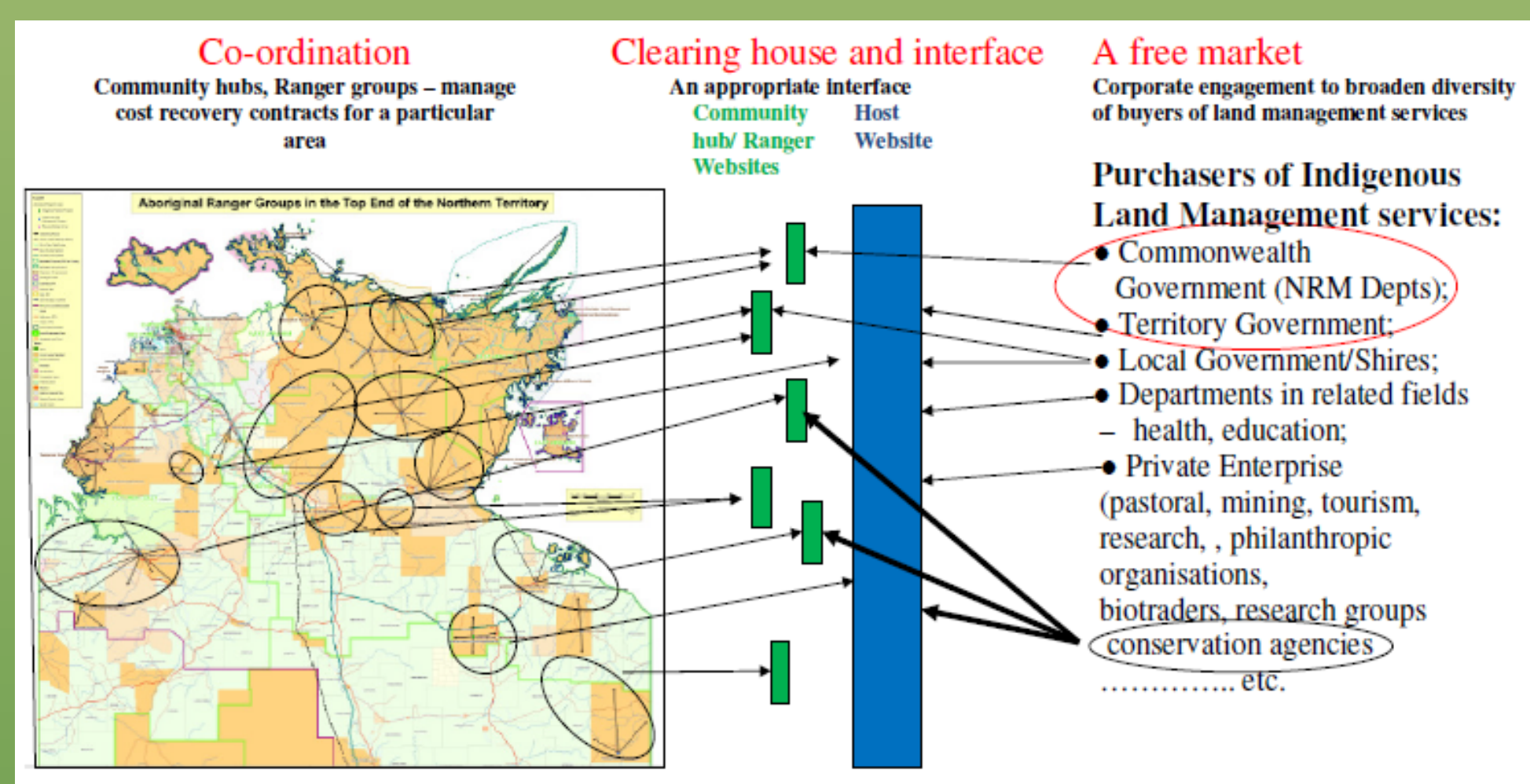
What is wrong with the way cost recovery contracts are being organised at the moment?

- limited buyers of services (Government Departments, few mining companies etc.)
- high transaction costs to visit and make contracts with remote rangers groups
- very limited scope of services being offered as cost recovery contracts
- limited cultural input into outcome of services
- not always the right people being involved in the work (Djungayi) at the right time
- (cultural calendars)?
- in many places Traditional Owners not having enough control over what land management action is happening on their land

Framework to link a broader suite of buyers with providers of land management services

Benefits

- lower transaction costs
- many more buyers
- more local income and employment
- empowerment of local people
- ability to stay ‘on country’



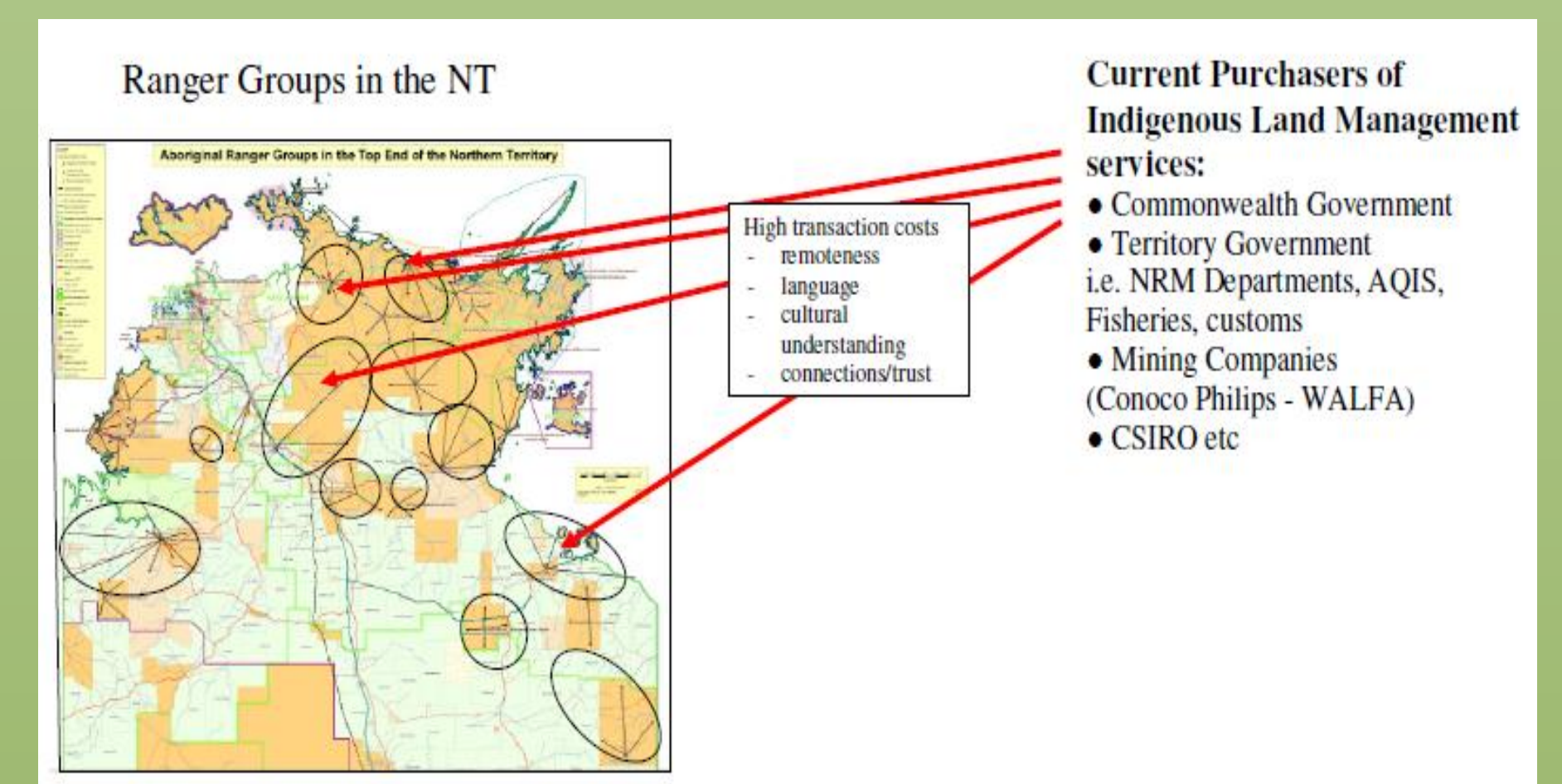
What determines the activities Aboriginal Land and Sea Management Ranger groups are involved in?

- geographic position (proximity neighbouring pastoral properties, Joint Managed National Park, mining companies, areas of threat)
- natural and cultural values of the country (conservation, rehabilitation)
- capacity of the ranger group (especially coordinator)
- accessibility of the group (transaction costs)
- endorsement of Traditional Owners and community

Current method of organising Aboriginal land management services – direct engagement

Limitations

- High transaction costs
- remoteness,
 - language difficulty
 - cultural misunderstanding
 - a need for an established connection



Steps in building the framework:

1. A need to determine Aboriginal aspirations - each Aboriginal community will have different opportunities and want to govern such a business in different ways.
2. Define and build markets - active corporate engagement is needed with stakeholders to broker work on Aboriginal land and make it easier to connect
3. Establish the processes through the clearing house - there is a need for funding and an organisation to assist in developing this framework and process of initiating (quote for job); administering and finalising (reporting) contracts. There are a number of ways to reduce transaction costs such as a tailored prospectus for different categories of buyers and the development of a website to inform buyers about regions and the services that local people can provide

What type of Aboriginal land management services might be available to Aboriginal communities as fee for service?

Category	Potential buyers	Potential Fee for Service work	Communication
Tier 1	Local - in area		
	Pastoralists	weeds, fire, feral animals, fencing	Direct, phone
Tier 2	Joint Managed Parks	weeds, fire, feral animals, fencing, water monitoring, facilities management	Direct, phone, website
	Regional		
	Research organisations	cultural guides, research assistant	Website, flier, direct
	Government Organisations	PES, AQIS, coastal surveillance, fire abatement	Website, flier, direct
	Shires/councils	weeds, fire, feral animals, fencing, grass cutting	Website, flier, direct
	Mining company	weeds, fire, feral animals, fencing	Website, flier, direct, portfolio
	Tourism	specific area management	Website, flier, direct
	Telstra	weeds, fire, feral animals, fencing of sites	Direct, phone
	Power and Water	bore monitoring, weeds	Direct, phone
	Tier 3	National/International	
Philanthropist		specific area management i.e. rainforest patch	Website
Conservation agencies		specific area management i.e. threatened species habitat	Website
	EPA - biotrading	specific area management i.e. equal to an area being developed	Website

