

## Desert Knowledge Precinct

### *Developing the people, knowledge and economy of the desert*

The Desert Knowledge Precinct is a 73 hectare site in Alice Springs that provides a national and international focal point for desert knowledge activities.

Desert knowledge is the know-how, ideas and innovations that desert people have developed to thrive. Connecting people with desert knowledge, creating partnerships and using desert knowledge helps to build stronger economies and more sustainable communities.

The Desert Knowledge Precinct reflects over \$35 million investment by the Northern Territory and Australian Governments. Current infrastructure includes:

- Desert Knowledge Australia Solar Centre
- Desert Knowledge Business and Innovation Centre
- Desert Peoples Centre.

The Precinct was first conceptualised in 2000 as a place to create a “knowledge community” to share and leverage resources.



### Batchelor Institute

Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE) is Australia's only dedicated Indigenous dual sector education provider. Courses include a wide range of VET skills training programs. There are also many Higher Education study options, the majority of which are delivered under the new ACIKE (Australian Centre of Indigenous Knowledges and Education) partnership between BIITE and Charles Darwin University (CDU). BIITE and CDU offer separate research training programs, Masters by Research and PhDs.



BIITE attracts Indigenous students from all states and territories with a special focus on remote communities in the NT.

Batchelor Institute's 'both-ways' learning philosophy is based on respect and brings together traditional Indigenous knowledge systems with Western academic disciplines to provide students with pathways to a successful journey of learning.

Courses are delivered in a mixed mode of short intensive residential workshops, workplace training and home based study with the support of dedicated tutors and visiting lecturers.

BIITE also has Annexes in Tennant Creek, Katherine, Darwin and Nhulunbuy as well as purpose built study centres in seven remote NT communities.

### CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences

CSIRO has had a continuing research presence in Alice Springs since 1953.



The broad aim of its current research is to contribute to better planning for sustainable livelihoods and habitation of the Australian rangelands and deserts. This requires solutions that recognise regional differences and support better management for environmental, social and economic outcomes. CSIRO aims to understand these solutions using a research approach that integrates environmental, social and economic considerations in developing new approaches to complex issues, and incorporates uncertainty about possible impacts of climate change in Australia's interior.

Current staff expertise includes animal ecology, carbon economies, climate change impacts and adaptation, environmental monitoring, landscape ecology, rangeland management, remote sensing, socio-economic systems and systems modelling. Staff at the laboratory work in partnership with all levels of government, universities, industry and communities across arid Australia, but also have a distinguished history of research in other parts of the world. Learnings from Central Australia have been used to inform projects about resource management in other arid ecosystems and in turn this international experience has enriched approaches to research about issues in Australia.

### Centre for Appropriate Technology

The Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT) is a national science and technology Indigenous non-profit organisation that aims to secure sustainable livelihoods through appropriate technology. CAT's core strengths include:



- housing and infrastructure services in remote communities
- community relationship building
- project management
- technology evaluation and research
- capacity-building, training and employment.

CAT activities and projects which can be found at the Desert Knowledge Precinct include:

- CAT Projects Ltd. This is a subsidiary company set up by CAT. This company delivers professional engineering services and solutions designed to enhance the sustainability of remote and urban communities across Australia and the Asia Pacific region.
- Bushlight. This is a major project of CAT that focuses on reliable and sustainable energy supplies by designing, installing and maintaining renewable energy systems, training and education in household energy efficiency to reduce power bills, and support for local enterprise and activity development, using renewable energy.
- Social Enterprise Hub. An initiative of the Desert Peoples Centre Joint Venture between CAT and Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education, the Hub aims to support and grow the social enterprise sector across central Australia.
- Training Programs. CAT runs Certificate I and II courses in a range of technical skill areas (Construction, Automotive, Information Technology).

### Desert Peoples Centre

The Desert Peoples Centre is a joint venture between Batchelor Institute and the Centre for Appropriate Technology. It is a commitment to work together to develop better, innovative links between education and training and other services to achieve more positive and sustainable outcomes for Indigenous Australians, particularly residents of Desert Australia.



The Desert Peoples Centre also incorporates the desert hub. The desert hub links, grows and navigates for and with social enterprises working in the social economy in the desert regions of central Australia.

## Ninti One Ltd

Ninti One Limited is a not-for-profit private company established in 2003 to:



- address the high levels of social and economic disadvantage, and to improve the lives, of people living in the desert and remote regions of Australia
- find solutions that address the impact of economic exclusion on people living in the desert and remote areas of Australia
- increase the economic participation of peoples living in remote and desert areas of Australia.

Ninti One manages the intellectual property from the former DKCRC, the research activities and partnerships of CRC for Remote Economic Participation, and the Australian Feral Camel Management Project, and engages in research delivery and commercialisation activities that benefit Australians living in remote areas.

Ninti One's skills and capacity include scientific, social and economic research and research training, covering:

- natural resource management and land issues
- social and economic systems
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural knowledge and its uses
- IP management
- governance in remote regions
- business enterprise development and entrepreneurialism
- function and sustainability of remote settlements
- remote tourism
- remote services
- energy and water
- partnerships, and ways to add value through them.

## Desert Knowledge Australia

Desert Knowledge Australia is a national organisation that identifies and develops key local and national projects that contribute to a social, economic and environmentally sustainable future for desert Australia. These include:



- Desert Leadership Programs to build the leadership skills and capabilities of desert leaders so they can work together for a better future.
- Outback Business Networks to connect businesses across desert Australia to overcome isolation, create opportunities and build competitiveness.
- remoteFOCUS to develop new approaches to the way governments engage with, administer and govern desert and remote Australia.
- Managing and administering the Desert Knowledge Precinct to provide a place for sharing and development of desert knowledge.
- The Desert Knowledge Australia Solar Centre to provide a research and testing facility for solar technologies.





Heath Road

← ALICE SPRINGS

South Stuart Hwy

AIRPORT →

Not to scale

Visitor Carpark

staff carpark

staff carpark

Cafe

Visitor Carpark

← DKA Solar Centre

- Batchelor reception T: 08 8939 7111
- CAT reception T: 08 8959 6100
- CAT Projects reception T: 08 8959 6240
- CSIRO, Desert Knowledge Australia & Ninti One reception T: 08 8959 6000

# DESERT KNOWLEDGE PRECINCT

Infrastructure provided by:

