



kakaduTM
NATIONAL PARK

Outstations Guide to establishment

September 2014



INTRODUCTION

The Kakadu Board of Management believes it is important for Bininj/Mungguy to be able to set up outstations to live in and maintain connection to country and culture. It is also important:

- outstations are set up by people with the right connection to the area;
- people or organisations who set up outstations need to make sure they are properly managed and resourced; and
- outstations do not have any bad effects on park values.

Approval for an outstation is needed by all Bininj/Mungguy who want to have an outstation.

WHY IS APPROVAL NEEDED FOR AN OUTSTATION?

Kakadu is a national park under the Australian law called the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* (EPBC Act). The park was set up to protect Kakadu's natural and cultural values and allow people to use the park in ways that are consistent with the values and will not harm the values.

The Kakadu Board of Management prepares the management plans for the park under the EPBC Act and makes decisions about the park under the plan. Things that are done in the park must be consistent with the EPBC Act and the management plans. This includes setting up and living on an outstation.

Half of Kakadu is Aboriginal owned land under another Australian law called the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*. The land is owned for the traditional owners by the Kakadu, Jabiluka and Gunlom Aboriginal Land Trusts and leased to the Director of National Parks to manage as part of Kakadu. The leases say Bininj/Mungguy can live on the land but need to follow decisions of the Board and rules in the park management plan.

The other half of Kakadu is owned by the Director until it becomes Aboriginal land under the Land Rights Act. Until then the lease rules do not apply to these areas.

The map attached to these guidelines shows the Aboriginal land in Kakadu and the land that is under claim to become Aboriginal land.

Approval for an outstation is needed by all Bininj/Mungguy who want to have an outstation, including traditional owners of Aboriginal land in the park.

WHO GIVES APPROVAL FOR AN OUTSTATION?

Outstations need to be approved by the Board of Management.

When the Board approves an outstation the Director of National Parks will give written authority for the outstation to go ahead. For outstations on Aboriginal land in the park this will be a sublease or licence. For other areas it will be a permit or agreement from the Director.

For subleases and licences on Aboriginal land approval will also be needed from the Land Trust under the Director's lease from the Land Trust.

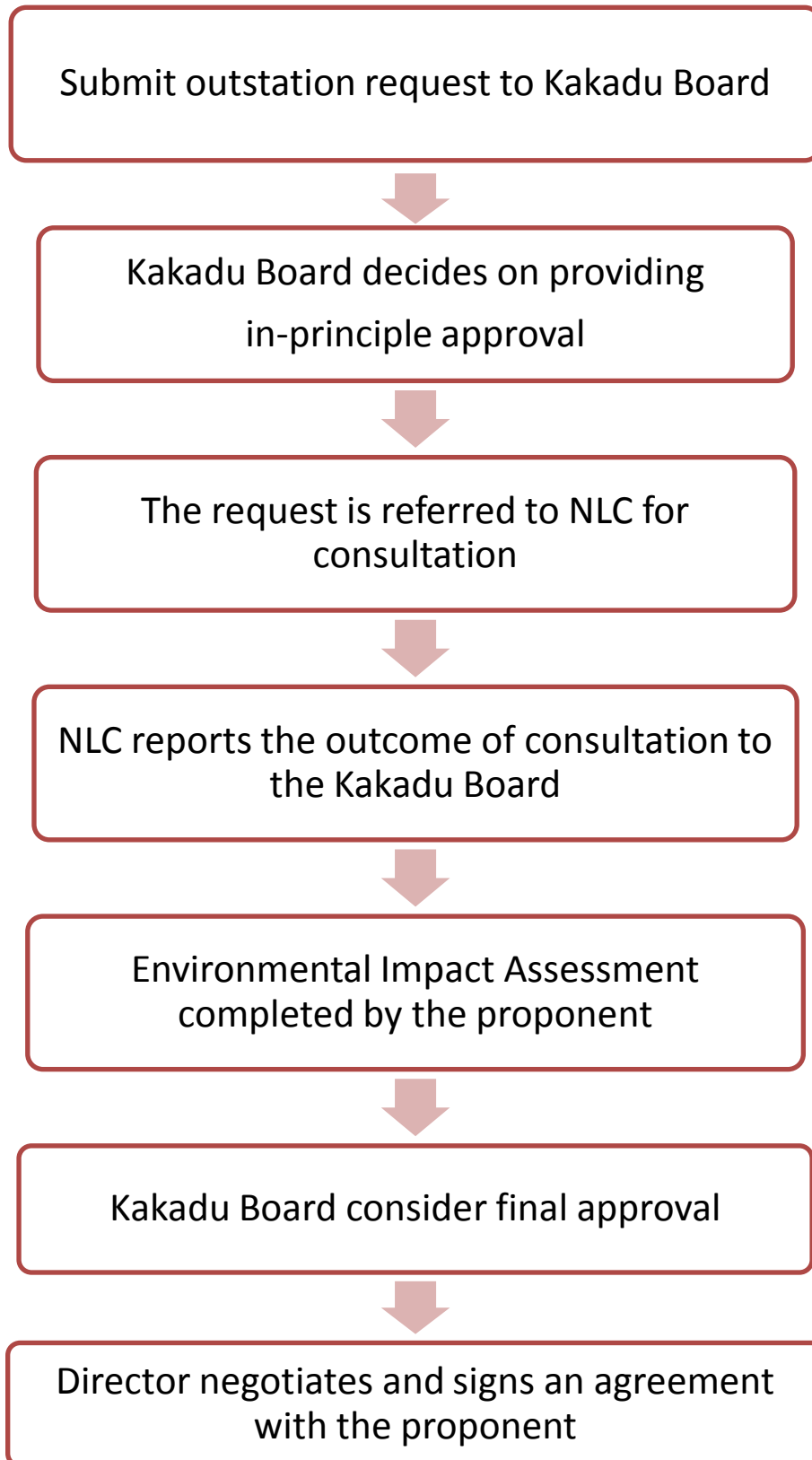
HOW TO GET APPROVAL FOR AN OUTSTATION

The Board of Management have decided the following steps will apply to deciding whether to approve an outstation-

1. The person or clan or organisation that wants to set up an outstation writes to the Park Manager or the Board with their proposal.
2. The proposal is referred to the Board for in-principle approval.
3. If the Board gives in-principle approval the proposal is referred to the Northern Land Council. The NLC will advise about the traditional rights of the proponent and proposed residents to reside at the place chosen. The NLC will also talk to traditional owners of Aboriginal land and other relevant Bininj/ Mungguy.
4. The proposal goes to Park staff to be assessed to check it won't damage country or important sites. This is called an environmental impact assessment.
5. When the assessment is done the Board decides whether to approve the proposal.

If the Board approves the proposal the Director of National Parks will give the proponent authority to go ahead. The Director will then discuss and agree the conditions of the approval before signing the document saying the outstation can go ahead.

KAKADU NATIONAL PARK OUTSTATION PROPOSAL PROCESS



WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO GET APPROVAL FOR AN OUTSTATION?

1. Decide where your outstation will be, how big it will be, how many people will live there.
2. Think about the things that will be needed for the outstation to run well, like roads, housing, power, water and sewerage.
3. Think about:
 - How will the outstation be maintained when things break down, like power or water supply and repairs to houses.
 - How will the outstation be looked after, such as getting rid of rubbish, cleaning out septic tanks, weeds etc.
 - How will people at the outstation get to the shop, the clinic, to work.
 - What happens if someone gets sick and you need to get a doctor?
4. Think about where the money and support for these things will come from and talk to organisations who can help.
5. Talk to other Bininj/Munggy, Park staff and the Northern Land Council about your proposal.
6. When your ideas are clear, write to the Park Manager or the Board of Management asking for approval for an outstation. The letter should include details to help the Board understand your proposal and decide whether to give approval. Things like:
 - where the outstation will be, how big it will be, how many people will live there
 - how you will get the things needed for the outstation to run well like roads, housing, power and water.
7. Be prepared to come to Board meetings, or send someone to Board meetings, to talk about your proposal.
8. Give park staff any extra information that is needed to help the Board decide whether to approve the outstation.
9. Make sure you have agreements with other organisations that will be needed for the outstation to run well, like roads, housing, power and water

WHAT DOES APPROVAL FOR AN OUTSTATION LOOK LIKE AND WHAT DOES IT SAY?

If the Board of Management approves an outstation the Director of National Parks will sign a document that says the outstation can go ahead. For outstations on Aboriginal land the document will be a sublease or licence from the Director. For outstations on land that is still under claim under the Land Rights Act the document will be a permit, and possibly an agreement for a sublease or licence when the land becomes Aboriginal land.

The map attached to this guide shows the Aboriginal land and land claim areas.

The document will include conditions about things that can and can't be done on the outstation to make sure there is no damage to country or significant sites. The document will also make clear that the clan or organisation that runs the outstation is responsible for things like the housing, power and water.

WHERE CAN I GET HELP TO SET UP AND LOOK AFTER MY OUTSTATION?

The Director of National Parks and Parks Australia are not responsible for resourcing or maintaining outstations. There is no money in the park budget for this.

Financial Assistance

The NT government may be able to assist with funding to set up and maintain outstations under the NT government Homelands Policy. Information can be sought by ringing 1800 031 648 or by emailing to Outstations.program@nt.gov.au. There is also information on the NT government website <http://www.homelands.nt.gov.au/>.

Outstation Services

The NT government Homelands Policy provide funding each year to Warnbi Aboriginal Corporation. Warnbi use this funding to provide municipal and essential services as well as housing maintenance for established outstations across Kakadu National Park.

The services that may be available through Warnbi include maintenance of; water (bore); power (solar/generator); access tracks (roads); general housing maintenance and repairs.

The establishment of an outstation is the responsibility of the person or clan or organisation wanting the outstation. All essential services such as water, power, sewerage and roads must be established before any support can be considered through the NT government Homelands Policy.

Once the outstation is fully established, the outstation owner will need to complete an application through the NT government Homelands Policy to be placed on the maintenance schedule with Warnbi Aboriginal Corporation.

Further information can be sought by calling 1800 031 648.

WHAT CAN PARKS AUSTRALIA DO TO HELP?

Park staff can talk to you about your outstation proposal and tell you about the information you will need to provide, and where you may be able to get financial and other assistance.

If Parks Australia staff are asked to provide emergency or special assistance they will respond like a good neighbour if they can.

Kakadu Aboriginal land and land under claim

