



WHAT 'COMMUNITY LED' MEANS TO DOOMADGEE

In the context of Doomadgee, "Community Led" refers to a model of development, service provision, or decision-making where the Doomadgee community takes a leadership role in determining our own needs, aspirations, priorities, and solutions. Rather than external organisations or governments dictating what is best for us, Doomadgee itself leads the process, ensuring that strategies and initiatives are culturally appropriate, relevant, and sustainable.



In Australia, Indigenous-led initiatives have shown that when communities have agency and leadership in the programs and projects affecting them, outcomes are more positive and sustainable. This approach contrasts with past practices where external entities often made decisions without adequately consulting Indigenous communities, leading to mistrust and less effective programs.

THESE ARE OUR CORE PRINCIPLES OF 'COMMUNITY LED':

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OWNERSHIP:

The Doomadgee community has ownership over projects, programs, or services, meaning we not only participate in its development and execution but also guide and lead it.

CULTURAL RESPECT:

Initiatives respect and integrate our cultural structures, traditions, family groups, and local wisdom.

PARTICIPATION:

Broad-based community participation ensures that the views and needs of various sub-groups (like family groups, elders, youth, women, etc.) within the community are considered.

CAPACITY BUILDING:

A focus on strengthening the skills, competencies, and abilities of Doomadgee community members so we can lead our development initiatives both now and in the future.

LOCAL SOLUTIONS:

Recognising that we as Doomadgee people best understand our challenges and are best-suited to craft solutions that will work for us.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

Efforts prioritise long-term sustainability rather than short-term fixes. This includes thinking about the economic, social, environmental, and cultural impacts.

PARTNERSHIP:

While the community is in the lead, collaboration with external agencies, government, NGOs, and other stakeholders can provide essential resources, expertise, and support. These collaborations, however, are grounded in mutual respect and understanding of the community led principle.