Working Together

The broader intention of this project is to establish meaningful partnerships to support the development of policy and learn how government can establish better partnerships with First Nations peoples. This includes, shared decision making, building the community controlled sector, transforming government, and shared access to data at a regional level.

What has been said across the three conversations?

The following were highlighted as important to successful partnerships:

- Ensuring cultural safety (including trust and respect)
- Effective and clear communication
- Clarity on the purpose of collaboration, particularly in regard to power sharing and ongoing relationships
- Opportunity for capacity building and career pathways as outcomes of a partnership

Questions & Considerations

- What work must government/government agencies do to ensure partnerships are successful?
- What programs might be developed?
- What could working together look like?
- What role does working together play in meeting the Closing the Gap targets?

What is our research is saying?

There are varying levels of 'working together' and engaging with First Nations peoples and Indigenous Knowledge. Consider the list and descriptions below and add your thoughts.

Action	Description	Notes/ Questions
Acknowledging	An acknowledgement is made to the Traditional Owners of the land where work is being undertaken.	
Celebrating	Indigenous Knowledge is celebrated within the project. Cultural knowledge may have been shared as part of the project and this is then positively communicated to a broader audience.	
Listening/ Consulted	First Nations peoples are consulted with as part of the project.	
Participation	First Nations peoples are participating, in a variety of roles within the project.	
Application: at project level	Indigenous Knowledge is applied within the project by First Nations peoples.	
Application: self-determined/ Decolonisation	Indigenous Knowledge is applied within the project and the outcomes have a direct social, economic and environmental outputs that are self-determined by the First Nations peoples involved.	

Cultural Responsiveness

Cultural responsiveness is the effective engagement and promotion of the socioeconomic, political and cultural needs of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It is having the ability to effectively forge relationships and actively engage in ongoing learning, reevaluation and participation.

What has been said across the three conversations?

The drone industry is at the very beginning of being culturally responsive, working towards cultural awareness. This clearly has impacts on:

- the way regulations are communicated,
- existing policy
- training within the industry.

Trust and cultural safety were highlighted as being significant factors in the development of partnerships. Central to this is respect and clarification around where decision making power lies. Following a co-design process with commitments to power sharing, collaboration and ICIP guidelines was a clear approach identified.

What is our research saying?

There has been considerable work by First Nations peoples to develop frameworks that support culturally responsive working together. *Our Knowledge Our Way*[1] recommends:

- Strengthening Indigenous knowledge - including through creating and maintain access to land and sea Country
- Strong partnerships – that enable the building of respect and appreciation for Indigenous knowledge; development of protocols to guide knowledge sharing; and engaging with the principles of free, prior and informed consent
- Sharing and weaving knowledge - Indigenous-led and co-developed tools are most appropriate, and those that promote inter-generational transfer of knowledge are highly valued.
- Indigenous networks – National and global networks that promote Indigenous knowledge practices are important as they offer peer-to-peer learning opportunities

Questions & considerations

- What does a culturally responsive partnership with government/a government agency look like?
- What role does government play in relation to ensuring cultural safety?
- What could a culturally responsive drone policy look like?

What other questions need to be asked/ explored?

[1] Woodward, E., Hill, R., Harkness, P. and R. Archer (Eds) 2020 Our Knowledge Our Way in caring for Country: Indigenous-led approaches to strengthening and sharing our knowledge for land and sea management. Best Practice Guidelines from Australian experiences. NAILSMA and CSIRO.

Sovereignty & Technology

At its most basic sovereignty is about ideas of power and authority. When discussed in relation to technology there are two types of sovereignty: 1) data sovereignty, the right to govern the collection, ownership and application of data and 2) technological sovereignty, where information and communications infrastructure and technology is aligned to the laws, needs and interests of the Country in which users are located.

What has been said across the three conversations?

Concern was raised that the broader implications of a new technology on Culture aren't being fully understood or considered. This impacts the ability for Traditional Owners and Elders to make informed decisions. It was also raised that protocols and rules around use of Drones on Country should be determined by individual Nations.

While work around data sovereignty is a significant consideration, as the use of drones currently focuses on the collection of data; data sovereignty is a much broader issue and one that requires consideration on a national scale. There is opportunity for the drone industry to play a leadership role in this space and examples have been provided by participants to this end.

What is our research is saying?

Much modern technology is designed and used within the frameworks of western worldviews. Often these contradict or ignore Indigenous Knowledge and ways of being, threatening First Nations sovereignty and reinforcing colonial tropes. It is possible to challenge the dominant narratives and power structures embedded in technology. This involves questioning the assumptions and values that underpin technological development and ensuring that technology is designed in a way that respects and empowers diverse cultures and communities.

Questions & Considerations

- How can partnerships with government work towards greater sovereignty?
- What role does government play in data sovereignty and self-determination?
- What work needs to be done to ensure sovereignty in this space?

What other questions need to be asked/ explored?

Values

Values, whether acknowledged or not, provide structure to decisions made, the way work is done and the interpretation of research (including data).

What has been said across the three conversations?

Values are dynamic, as is what is valued. Conversation reiterated that there is not a homogenised Indigeniety or Indigenous nation, meaning that values will vary.

Values remain significant beyond the lifespan of a project, especially in relation to data and how it is stored and used.

What is our research is saying?

Our research and experience suggest that there are three core values, deeply embedded within First Nations worldviews. While these may appear in different ways across different cultural practices they give shape to decision making.

Caring for Culture	Caring for Community	Caring for Country
In relation to drones, this means… In relation to working with government, this means…	In relation to drones, this means… In relation to working with government, this means…	In relation to drones, this means… In relation to working with government, this means…

What's missing? Are there other values to included?