Desert Knowledge Australia (DKA) is a statutory corporation of the Northern Territory, established in 2003 to encourage learning, research and sustainable socioeconomic development in the desert. DKA believes there is great potential in the people, places and knowledges of the desert, which is why strengthening remote Australia is at the heart of everything we do.
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OUR PURPOSE

Demonstrating the value of regional and remote Australia

We are based in a vibrant place where the oldest living cultures on the planet thrive; where the people are resilient and innovation is a way of life. Desert and remote Australia is unique and we share that value with the world.

Connecting people, knowledge and opportunities

Desert and remote Australia and its knowledge base is a big place to navigate and DKA can be a guide. We create meaningful connections by bringing ideas and resources together.

Looking to the future

We innovate and incubate. We seek opportunities to grow ideas into realities, creating lasting, positive change.

OUR VALUES

Work together

We build high-performing and positive teams, and we bring our commitment to teamwork into our external relationships and networks to maximise our shared impact.

Be creative – innovate!

We approach our work with creativity and innovation; we engage with possibilities and new ideas, creating an agile and responsive organisation.

Stay focused

There are many different things we could do; we are focused and engage purposefully with everything we do.

Come from strength

We work with our strengths and the strengths of those we engage with to create positivity and growth. We live and work across languages and cultures and use that experience as the foundation of our work.

Knowledge is powerful

We have a role in collecting, curating and sharing the knowledge that exists in desert and remote Australia. We create opportunities to share knowledge.

DKA’S VISION IS A STRONGER DESERT AND REMOTE AUSTRALIA
In 2018-2019, DKA gathered momentum against its strategic plan, creating a strong network of partnerships and activity focused on strengthening desert and remote Australia. DKA’s ongoing engagement with community groups across the desert continues to deliver programs that are built from the ground up, based on community-expressed need.

It is an honour to have held the Chair’s role and I look forward to continuing my association with DKA as it begins to realise the opportunities it has so diligently created.

I sincerely thank the outgoing Chair, Ms Marion Scrymgour, for her work in supporting this significant growth period for DKA and also commend Steve Brouwer who resigned as a director during the year and thank him for his dedication.

As we continue to work on the strategic focus areas, the DKA board is bolstered by the experience of its directors. The board is focused on ensuring a strong, sustainable DKA into the future and brings a range of expertise to this task.

In 2018/19, DKA was very ably managed by the outgoing CEO, Lauren Ganley, and I acknowledge the energy, expert management and vision that Lauren brought to DKA and thank her for her contribution to the desert.

I thank the Chief Minister and Minister for Trade, Business and Innovation, the Hon. Michael Gunner, as well as department head Shaun Drabsch for their ongoing support. I look forward to our continued collaboration as DKA puts knowledge into action.

Chris Fry
Chair of the DKA Board
DKA has generated significant momentum in 2018/19 and, as the incoming CEO, I look forward to continuing this direction, so aptly set by my predecessor, Ms. Lauren Ganley.

With strong support from the Board and a dedicated team, DKA has been able to progress its strategic focus areas generating significant new partnerships and activity, focused on strengthening desert and remote Australia.

We have
- formalised nine (9) new partnerships through Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) across industry areas and sectors, bringing new opportunities and networks together
- seen the Intyalheme Centre for Future Energy establish its role as a change agent enhancing renewable energy capability in the NT
- successfully achieved full program funding from the Federal National Indigenous Australians Agency for our desert leadership program Codes 4 Life, working with Aboriginal men of Central Australia

In the next twelve months, we will continue to grow these programs as well as taking a renewed focus on developing the Precinct and expanding the role of the Desert Knowledge Research Institute.

Dr Dan Tyson
DKA CEO
PARTNERSHIPS

DKA believes that it can achieve the best possible outcomes for desert and remote Australia by collaborating with likeminded organisations to maximise its shared impact.
The Intyalheme Centre for Future Energy was established by the NT Government in December 2017 to support the Territory's renewable energy target of 50% by 2030. Intyalheme's core functions are to deliver collaborative projects, share knowledge, and be a conduit between energy industry stakeholders while helping to inform and engage the community on topics associated with renewable energy.

Through 2018/19 Intyalheme focused on building relationships, and fostered connections with a wide range of stakeholders across the energy sector including utilities, government, industry, academia and the community.

Establishing Intyalheme's reputation and credibility culminated in a successful A-Lab event in November, in partnership with the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA). The event attracted 50 energy experts from around Australia to explore project concepts that can be developed in Alice Springs to address local challenges, while also providing new insights that are transferable to other power systems.

By April 2019 DKA had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with ARENA to support outcomes in the area of knowledge sharing. Intyalheme is now working towards a full application to leverage ARENA funding for its Alice Springs Future Grid project; a multimillion dollar program to remove barriers to further renewable energy uptake in the local power systems.

Intyalheme funded the construction of a Tennant Creek site within the NT Government funded NT Solar Resource project, which is gathering data from weather stations across four key climatic zones, in order to support the development of the renewable energy industry locally.

Community engagement is vital to Intyalheme's work, and will be at the forefront of Future Grid. In September Intyalheme delivered a Future Energy Conversation at a local venue, where attendees had the opportunity to find out what goes on behind the scenes within Power and Water Corporation's system control. In May Intyalheme delivered a series of workshops to students from Centralian Middle School. More than 100 students from year 10 were invited for hands-on sessions with engineers, which exposed them to the renewable energy industry and demonstrated how solar works.

Industry workshops are a regular feature of Intyalheme's work, and among other such events Intyalheme facilitated an NT Energy Market Reform workshop in Darwin, which was attended by all key NT energy stakeholders.

Another project saw Intyalheme working with local technical consultancy Ekistica to deliver a document called the Off-Grid Guide, which shares knowledge generated during the Bushlight program. In doing so, an industry-focused workshop was held to fine-tune the content in line with the needs of the target audience, which was primarily essential services providers who work in remote communities.

Intyalheme is an Arrernte word meaning ‘a fire starting up again’
The Desert Knowledge Australia Solar Centre (DKASC) celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2018, marking an important moment as the largest multi-technology solar demonstration facility in the southern hemisphere. DKA proudly celebrates the people and organisations who have helped develop the Solar Centre, including the Centre for Appropriate Technology and Ekistica (known as CAT Projects in 2008). The DKA Solar Centre was initially established with a $3.1 million grant from the Commonwealth and is now commercially sustainable in its ongoing development. DKA partners with Ekistica for the ongoing operation and management of the Solar Centre.

The Solar Centre combines research and development, education opportunities, investor insight, knowledge generation and sharing as well as electricity supply for the Desert Knowledge Precinct, providing clean energy every day to the organisations onsite and reducing the amount of electricity drawn from the grid. The unique facility is a real life demonstration of solar technologies spanning many types, ages, makes and models.

The Solar Centre features 42 solar installations, built in collaboration with various industry and research partners. An important element of the Solar Centre is the website where long-term performance data from the site can be downloaded and live (real-time) data displayed interactively. On current trends, the website is accessed by more than 12,000 national and international users annually, including research institutions, academics, students, product developers, investors, industry and members of the public.

Major development

This year saw major work undertaken on developing a new server and website for the Solar Centre, ensuring a stable environment for the future and creating improvements to data transmission across the network.

New installations in 2018-2019

METEO STATION:

A class A high resolution meteo station (weather station) was installed at the DKASC. This meteo station is one of four stations located across the territory (the others located in Darwin, Katherine and Tennant Creek) which aim to provide high resolution data and support scientific and industry projects throughout the Northern Territory.
**RENEWABLE ENERGY**

**2018-2019**

- **446,085 kWh** of solar energy generated, equivalent to **286 tonnes** of avoided CO₂ emissions.

**Since 2018**

- **4.1 million kWh** generated to date, equivalent to **2,654 tonnes** of avoided CO₂ emissions.

**DESERT KNOWLEDGE PRECINCT ELECTRICITY SUPPLY SOURCES**

- **42%** solar PV
- **58%** grid
- **25%** exported
- **75%** onsite

**TOTAL SOLAR PV GENERATION**

**THE DKASC WEBSITE**

Many people from across the world download long-term data from the installations via the DKASC website to study and better understand the different technologies and environmental factors at play. People visiting Alice Springs can also freely walk through the facility and see the various installations up-close.

**www.dkasolarcentre.com.au**

**WHO DOWNLOADS DATA FROM THE DKASC WEBSITE?**

- **40%** students
- **23%** researchers
- **11%** private citizens
- **9%** manufacturers
- **5%** designers
- **5%** developers
- **4%** unspecified
- **2%** investors
- **23%** installers
- **7%** USA
- **49%** Australia
- **1.4%** France
- **2%** Germany
- **1%** Italy
- **1.5%** Kenya
- **2%** United Kingdom
- **2%** Japan
- **2%** China
- **8%** India
- **5%** South Korea

**WHERE ARE DKASC WEBSITE USERS FROM?**

**WHERE ARE DKASC WEBSITE USERS FROM?**

**12,758** website visitors in FY19

**NUMBER OF SITE TOURS IN FY18-19**

- **11 GROUPS** totalling over 260 people

**WEB VISITORS IN FY19**

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- **1.5%** Kenya
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**23%** rise in data downloads in FY19
Codes 4 Life is a program for Aboriginal men that focuses on identity, responsibility and legacy. It was developed in 2015 by Arrernte/Alyawarre man, Michael Liddle, and has been delivered in communities across Central Australia. Through Codes 4 Life, participants are empowered to be strong leaders in their families and communities. By reconnecting with culture, men gain a richer understanding of their identity and responsibilities and rewrite the legacy they leave for their children and grandchildren.

Our Codes 4 Life program focuses on strengthening the understanding of the multiple codes that are a part of Aboriginal men’s lives and identity, using AFL football codes as a lens through which respect for rules can be discussed. Recognising the vital role Elders play in Indigenous cultures, the program places Elders at the front of the design and delivery of the program.

Aboriginal men walk in two worlds, navigating a complex network of structures that influence their behaviour and impact their obligations. Codes 4 Life provides a safe space for men to have deep discussions about culture and identity with senior Aboriginal men, law officers and each other. They gain a better understanding of the strength their culture can offer, learn to think differently about being caretakers of country, and understand the importance of becoming keepers of knowledge.

CULTURE KEEPS US STRONG. IT SHARES ITS WISDOM IN A WHISPER, SO WE NEED TO LISTEN CAREFULLY. CULTURE ASKS US TO THINK ABOUT THE LEGACY WE LEAVE BEHIND FOR OUR CHILDREN. IT REMINDS US OF OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO OUR FAMILIES, OUR LAW, OUR COUNTRY, AND OUR COMMUNITY. IT STRENGTHENS OUR IDENTITY AS WE WALK IN TWO WORLDS, TRYING TO FIND OUR PLACE IN EACH OF THEM. BY SITTING QUIETLY ON COUNTRY WITH OUR ELDERS, WE CAN HEAR THE VOICE OF CULTURE AND GAIN KNOWLEDGE, UNDERSTANDING AND PEACE.

SOMETIMES OUR LIVES BECOME TOO NOISY, FILLED WITH DESTRUCTIVE DISTRACTIONS LIKE DRUGS AND ALCOHOL, GAMBLING, CRIME, AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. ALL THIS NOISE DROWNS OUT THE VOICE OF CULTURE, AND WE FORGET OUR LEGACY, OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AND OUR IDENTITY. WITH THE NEXT GENERATION TOO DISTRACTED TO LISTEN AND LEARN, ELDERS FEAR THAT THEIR CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE WILL DIE WITH THEM. WHAT IF WE COULD TURN DOWN THE VOLUME, AND LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF CULTURE AGAIN?

Michael Liddle, Alyawarre/Arrernte man and creator of Codes 4 Life
DKA ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF THE NTG THROUGH THE ALCOHOL ACTION INITIATIVE, AND THE CENTRECORP FOUNDATION FOR THEIR FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF CODES 4 LIFE WORKSHOPS.

ATITJERE/HARTS RANGE 1 WORKSHOP

LARAMBA 1 WORKSHOP

AMPILATWATJA/AMAROO 1 WORKSHOP

TI TREE 1 WORKSHOP

TENNANT CREEK 1 WORKSHOP

ALICE SPRINGS 1 WORKSHOP

Participants  Elders
The Desert Knowledge Precinct’s (DKP) Edutourism program, facilitated by DKA, intertwines science, technology, engineering and maths with Arrernte culture. It introduces students to the desert, to Arrernte knowledge that has flourished over many centuries, and to the newest STEAM research.

The program is a proud partnership with GeoScience Australia, Centre for Appropriate Technology, and Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education, that showcases our expertise, shares our sustainable and innovative projects, and promotes the uniqueness of Central Australia.
THE DESERT KNOWLEDGE AUSTRALIA SOLAR CENTRE ATTRACTS EVERYONE FROM VIPS TO TOURISTS, AND PROVIDES DKA AND ITS PARTNERS WITH A TECHNICALLY SIGNIFICANT AND VISUALLY APPEALING LOCATION FROM WHICH TO LEARN.

MEETING AND LEARNING FROM ENGINEERS ON THE PRECINCT GIVES STUDENTS A TASTE OF STEAM CAREER OPTIONS, AS WELL AS THE OPPORTUNITY TO UNDERSTAND THE REAL-LIFE APPLICATION OF SATELLITE, RENEWABLE AND TECHNOLOGY KNOWLEDGE.

THE SPACE TO LEARN ABOUT THE TECHNOLOGIES NEEDED FOR THE FUTURE, ON ARRERNTJE COUNTRY, IS A KEY PART OF THE PROGRAM. AND WINNING SOLAR BINGO IS A BONUS!
EXPERIENCING THE RED HEARTLAND.
DKA’s bespoke, cultural immersion, knowledge experiences for corporate groups continue to give DKA an opportunity to showcase its unique knowledge of the desert. These experiences offer corporate groups a chance to meaningfully and respectfully build connections, experience Aboriginal culture and foster leadership in the heart of Australia, sowing the seeds of new ventures and giving participants an opportunity to reflect on their approach to their own work.

The Desert Knowledge Precinct is designed to host events, workshops and conferences for groups of professionals. DKA introduces and supports business opportunities, engages in strategic facilitation, and connects people, knowledge and ideas in remote and regional Australia.

DKA’s knowledge experiences offer
• a wide range of activities to encourage hands-on learning about the physical and socio-economic landscape of arid Australia
• the facilities and services required to host workshops, conferences or team days
• cultural immersion through conversations, walks, a day on country, or bush camping under the stars

DKA has developed significant partnerships as a result of these experiences and will continue to foster connections.
TWILIGHT FESTIVAL

CELEBRATING THE PRECINCT’S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

475 SOUTH STUART HIGHWAY, ALICE SPRINGS
Food, entertainment and family fun

SATURDAY 3 NOVEMBER
4.00pm TO 7.00pm

info@dka.com.au  |  08 8959 6000
2018 marked the 10th anniversary of the Desert Knowledge Precinct, celebrated through a week of events that reaffirmed relationships and celebrated the vision, purpose and work of the Precinct and the partner organisations, tenants and neighbours.

The Precinct, a beautiful 73 hectare property on the South Stuart Highway, 8km south of the Alice Springs CBD, is a welcoming environment that encourages learning, knowledge sharing and collaboration, reflecting and respecting its distinctive surroundings. The research, education, enterprises and cultural activities create an enriching, invigorating place to make connections. The Precinct nurtures relationships that strengthen local, national and international communities and is world-renowned for its innovation that is advancing regional and remote Australia. From the local organisations who utilise DKA’s modern facilities to the school groups (science, technology, engineering, arts and maths) learning and Arrernte cultural experiences, the Precinct is a meeting place and knowledge hub for all.

DKA manages the Precinct which is home to partner organisations Desert Knowledge Australia (DKA), and the Desert Peoples Centre (a joint venture between Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE) and the Centre for Appropriate Technology (CfAT) ). Management is underpinned by an Indigenous Land Use Agreement and we celebrate the Arrernte people as the traditional custodians and first knowledge holders of this land and we proudly acknowledge Harold Furber as the Precinct’s Elder-in-residence.

As the landlord of the Precinct, DKA develops the property and leases space to other organisations. In 2018-19, Territory Natural Resource Management, Regional Arts Australia, Desert Support Services, Tangentyere Council’s Land and Learning Program, Indigenous Business Australia, Maggie Kavanagh Consulting, Indigenous Desert Alliance, NT Friendship & Support and the Australian College of Midwives were all tenants on the Precinct. The organisations on the Precinct work across industries and sectors, but have shared values and common goal: making the desert a better place to work, learn and live.

A WEEK OF THE PRECINCT’S 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS CULMINATED WITH THE BIGGEST PARTY OF THEM ALL: THE TWILIGHT FESTIVAL. MORE THAN 2000 PEOPLE TURNED OUT TO HELP THE PRECINCT CELEBRATE.
DKA’s research arm, Desert Knowledge Research Institute (DKRI), was launched in 2018 with three focus areas that align with the strategic direction of DKA:

**Place**
Land and country is central to the work of DKA and DKRI.

**People**
Aboriginal governance, leadership and land management is essential for community resilience in remote Australia.

**Knowledge**
The accumulation, translation and dissemination of knowledge is in the DNA of research institutes. For DKRI, this includes the outcomes of the research it facilitates and its partnership with DKA which hosts and protects many aspects of desert knowledge that currently exist.

DKRI acts as a conduit and facilitator of desert research programs, funding and collaborations. It works to support existing research as well as to identify and generate new research opportunities. As a registered charity, DKRI can access funding for desert research and is in a great position to create connections and opportunities across remote and regional Australia.
The opportunities presented by the digital economy require new skills and knowledge in order for remote Australia to benefit both economically and socially. DKA facilitates collaborations and opportunities that support new technologies, resolve policy issues around open data and Aboriginal data sovereignty, and support the growth of a new digital economic base and workforce.

The significant innovation presence and facility at the Desert Knowledge Precinct creates the broader innovation environment necessary for the establishment of an incubator in Alice Springs.

“IT WAS FANTASTIC TO HAVE A DIVERSE RANGE OF EXPERTS AND STAKEHOLDERS IN THE ROOM THAT SHARE OUR VISION FOR A THRIVING INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA WITH CONNECTIONS ACROSS THE TERRITORY. BY TAPPING INTO THE TALENT, EXPERTISE AND EXISTING STRENGTHS OF THIS REGION, WE CAN CREATE SOMETHING THAT WILL HAVE A PROFOUND AND LONG-LASTING IMPACT,”

Wendy Pech, Darwin Innovation Hub

“BY WORKING WITH ALL OUR PARTNERS AND COLLABORATING WITH OTHER INNOVATORS WE INCREASE OUR SHARED IMPACT, WHICH MEANS BETTER OUTCOMES FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE DESERT,”

Lauren Ganley

“COMBINING DKA’S CONNECTIONS WITH OUR EXPERIENCE IN BUSINESS ACCELERATOR AND INCUBATOR PROGRAMS WILL BE THE NEXT STEP FOR IACCELERATE TO BUILD A THRIVING REGIONALLY-FOCUSED ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM,”

Omar Khalifa, CEO of iAccelerate
2000 local people helped celebrate 10 years of the precinct.

DKA’s flagship projects attract participants from all over Australia. Here are 50 energy experts designing the town’s future grid.
SENATOR SCULLION, MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS, CONGRATULATING MICHAEL LIDDLE ON BEING GRANTED FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE CODES 4 LIFE PROGRAM.

THE HON DALE WAKEFIELD, NT MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR RENEWABLES, AT THE A-LAB WORKSHOP.
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME
- Grants: $1,598,966
- Interest: $31,037
- Rent: $168,886
- Solar Centre Revenue: $127,533
- Business and Innovation Centre: $126,214
- Desert Knowledge Precinct Management: $205,942
- Consultancy Services: $11,452
- Other: $53,922

EXPENDITURE
- Employees: $1,431,833
- Depreciation & Amortisation: $404,375
- Desert Knowledge Precinct and Business Innovation Centre: $300,199
- Consultants: $207,422
- Travel and accommodation: $53,252
- Media and Marketing: $45,665
- Other Expenses: including Comms, Accounting, IT, Impairment: $441,686

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS
- Trade and other receivables: $89,498
- Total Bank: $3,093,499
- Property, plant, equipment and intangibles: $11,833,082

LIABILITIES
- Employee benefits: $87,234
- Grants received in advance: $2,319,324
- Rent received in advance: $2,266,016
- Trade and other payables: $288,421

EQUITY
- Issued capital: $7,808,935
- Retained earnings: $2,246,149
CASH FLOW

CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES
- Receipts from government grants: $3,339,123
- Other operating receipts: $638,775
- Payments to suppliers and employees: (-$2,510,361)
- Interest received: $31,037

CASH FLOW FROM INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES
- Proceeds from financial assets: $1,009,966
- Sale/(Purchase) of property, plant and equipment: (-$23,414)
Acting/Deputy Chair
Chris Fry

Directors
Pat Anderson AO
Dave Batic
Steve Brouwer
Robert Campbell
Jimmy Cocking
Vanessa Elliott
Heron Loban
Rede Ogden

40% women
60% men
50% Aboriginal
Harold Furber is the Elder-in-residence at the Desert Knowledge Precinct. This role was established to ensure that the work, people and activities on the Precinct are guided by Arrernte leadership. Harold creates a connection to the continuing stories and knowledge of the land and the Arrernte people, and helps ground our work in respectful cultural practices.