



**APEC Business Advisory Council**

ABAC 2021

**Inclusion Task Force – Indigenous**

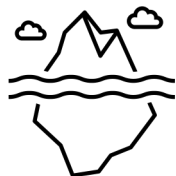
**Indigenous Business Leaders' Dialogue**

Presentation by

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**[www.abaonline.org](http://www.abaonline.org)**



### Problem

- **Visibility:** The Indigenous business sector has comparatively low visibility across the region
- **Non-homogeneity:** Indigenous economies are at variable stages in their economic development and business growth pipeline
- **Impediments:** Specific structural and systemic barriers to participation in the region's economy are shared or common among Indigenous economies and businesses



### Solution

- Host a 2 hr dialogue between Indigenous business leaders and interested Council members to stimulate dialogue about Indigenous trade and economic policy inclusion in the region
- Develop a Statement of Economic Priorities agreed with members of the Indigenous business community which could include topics such as greater cross-border collaboration, data needs of the Indigenous Business sector and infrastructure needs of rural and remote Indigenous communities
- Seek agreement at ABAC III to include the agreed Statement as an Annex to the Leaders Report

## Identifying an Indigenous Business

Globally, Indigenous peoples may be known by names such as: Tāngata Whenua, Aboriginal, First Nations, Native or Tribal peoples.

There is no official or singularly authoritative definition of Indigenous peoples under International Law or Policy.

The ABAC Indigenous Taskforce **does not** seek to define Indigenous peoples for the purpose of identifying Indigenous businesses.

The Indigenous Taskforce seeks to work with Council members to invite participation from businesses that self-identify as Indigenous in their economies.

## COMMON CHARACTERISTICS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

- **Self-identification** as Indigenous peoples at the individual level and accepted by the community as their member
- **Historical continuity** with pre-colonial and/or pre-settler societies
- Strong **link to territories** and surrounding **natural resources**
- **Distinct** social, economic or political systems
- **Distinct** language, culture and beliefs
- Form **non-dominant** groups of society
- Resolve to **maintain and reproduce their ancestral environments** and systems as distinctive peoples and communities

# SCOT: Indigenous Business Leaders Dialogue

## Strengths



- ABAC is the region's most influential business forum
- ABAC offers access to APEC Economic Leaders through its annual meeting and Final Report to Leaders

## Challenges



- Identifying Indigenous businesses
- Political sensitivities weighing too heavily on a business focused dialogue
- Gaining consensus to include the Statement in the Report to Leaders
- Attracting participation of Indigenous business leaders from a diversity of member economies

## Opportunity



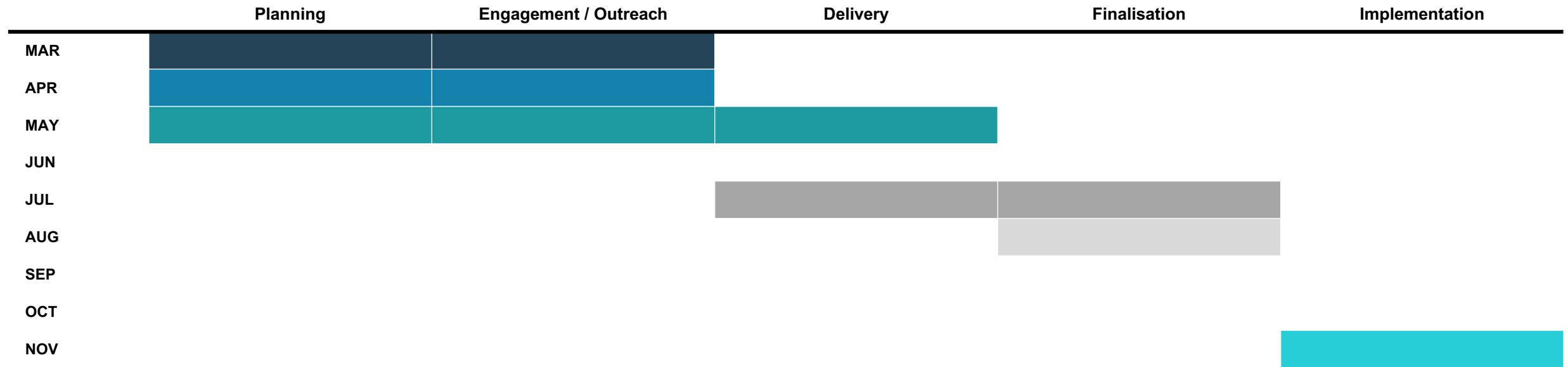
- The ABAC report provides a platform to elevate economic priority areas for the region's Indigenous business sector
- The Dialogue could help expand ABAC networks to be more inclusive of a more diverse field of business interests

## Threats



- Changes in diplomatic relationships between APEC economies
- Tensions in domestic relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations
- Detractors that see International business forums as contrary to Indigenous interests
- Resistant economies to Indigenous economic inclusion

# Planning Timeline



## How to participate and input into the Statement & Dialogue

- 1 Now**  
Invite Members' views, are there areas of agreement or concern?
- 2 Next Taskforce Meeting**  
Taskforce refines Indigenous Business Statement of Economic Priorities for presentation and discussion at Indigenous Business Leaders' Dialogue
- 3 Final Taskforce Meeting**  
Present agreed Indigenous Business Statement of Economic Priorities for approval to include in Final Report to Leaders at ABAC III

## Recommendation

**“To agree to table the Concept Paper: Indigenous Business Leaders Dialogue at ABAC II for approval to proceed with planning the event and drafting the Statement of Economic Priorities”**