



Australian Government  
Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation



The ILSC GROUP

PEOPLE. COUNTRY. OPPORTUNITY.



# ILSC Engagement Framework

**The principles and practice of quality engagement**

February 2026



## **Acknowledgement of Country**

In all our activities we pay our respects to the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands, waters, and skies on which we live and work.

We honour the resilience and continuing connection to Country, Culture, and community of all First Nations peoples across Australia.

We recognise the decisions we make today will impact the lives of generations to come.

## **A note on language**

The terms 'Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander,' 'Aboriginal,' 'Indigenous' and 'First Nations' may be used interchangeably throughout this document. Using these terminologies, we seek to acknowledge and honour diversity, shared knowledge, and experiences as well as the right of individuals and communities to define their own identities.

The C in Country is capitalised throughout this document as Country for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people is a strong place of connection which provides the upmost significance to their people and means more than physical land. In this document, Country may refer to land, freshwater and/or seawater.

## **Warning**

First Nations readers are advised that this publication may contain the names or images of people who have died.

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# Introduction

This Engagement Framework paves the way for the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation's (ILSC) next chapter in advancing the aspirations of First Nations peoples in Australia.

We are committed to improving how we engage with communities over the long term. To support the implementation of this Framework, we are creating practical tools, clear guidelines, and helpful policies to make sure the values and principles in the Framework are used by our workforce effectively.

## Internationally Recognised Approach to Engagement

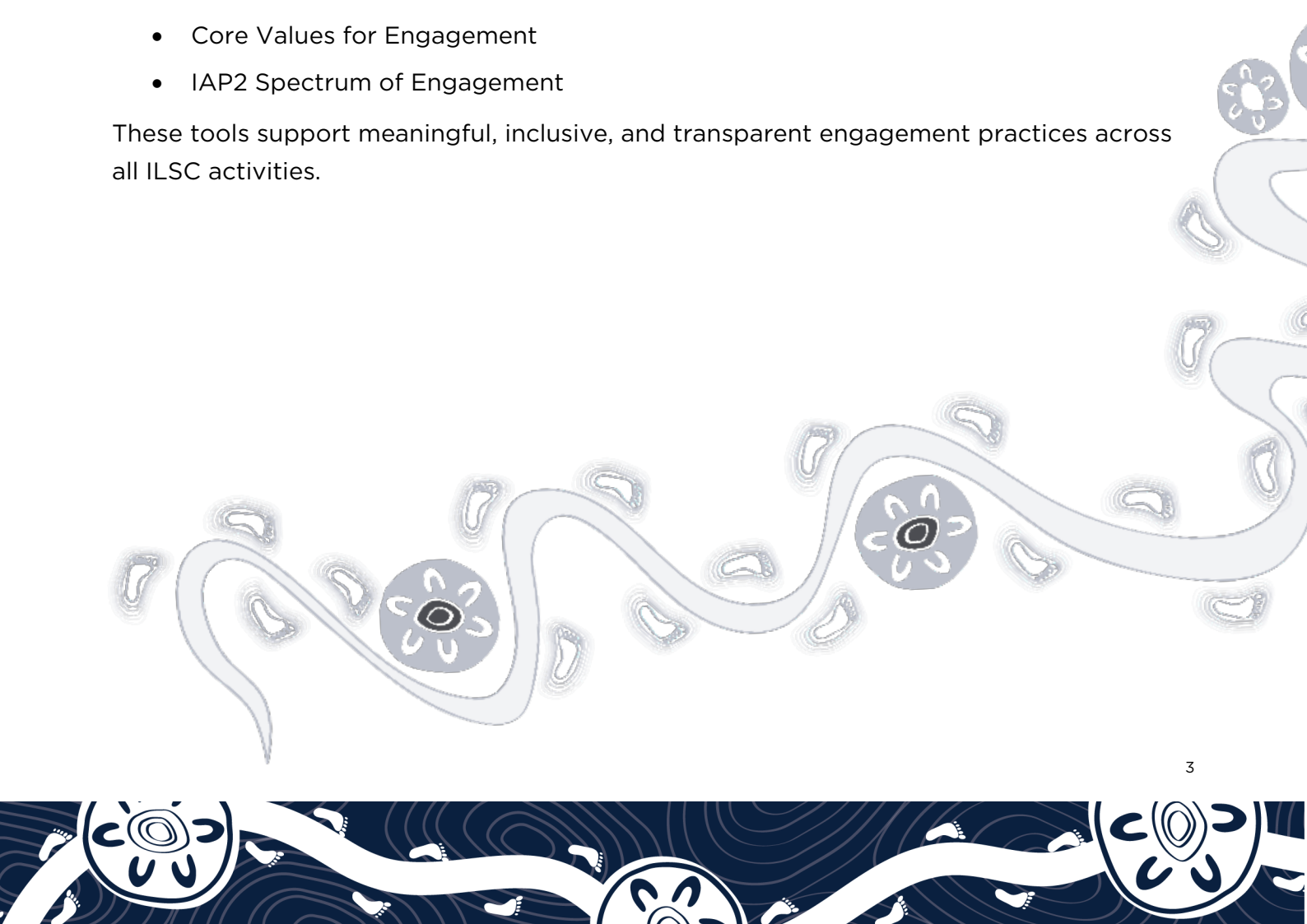
The ILSC's engagement approach is grounded in globally respected methodologies developed by the Engagement Institute ([formerly IAP2 Australasia](#)). The Engagement Institute defines engagement as:

*“An intentional process with the specific purpose of working across organisations, stakeholders, and communities to shape the decisions or actions of members of the community, stakeholders, or organisation in relation to a problem, opportunity, or outcome.”*

To ensure consistency and effectiveness, the ILSC has adapted the following key elements from the Engagement Institute (used with permission):

- Core Values for Engagement
- IAP2 Spectrum of Engagement

These tools support meaningful, inclusive, and transparent engagement practices across all ILSC activities.





# Engagement Framework Summary

The Engagement Framework comprises three key elements:

## Element One: Engagement Principles

1. **Cultural Safety:** Engagement must create environments where First Nations peoples feel respected, heard, and free from discrimination.
2. **Self-determination:** Communities should be supported by the ILSC to lead their own development and decision-making processes.
3. **Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC):** Engagement must uphold principles of FPIC, ensuring communities make decisions freely, with full understanding and without coercion.
4. **Economic Empowerment:** Engagement should foster opportunities for economic participation and growth that directly and sustainably benefit Indigenous communities.
5. **Data Empowerment:** Respecting Indigenous data sovereignty means enabling communities to control, access and use data in ways that support their priorities and protect their rights.
6. **Ethical Engagement:** Ethical engagement requires transparency, accountability, and a commitment to building trust through respectful and reciprocal relationships.

## Element Two: Guiding Values for Ethical Engagement

1. **Right to Participate:** Individuals and communities affected by decisions have the right to be involved in the decision-making process.
2. **Influence on Decisions:** Engagement must include a commitment that public input will meaningfully influence outcomes.
3. **Sustainable Decisions:** Decisions are strengthened by recognising and communicating the needs and interests of all people, including decision-makers.
4. **Informed Participation:** Our partners must be provided with clear, relevant, and timely information to support meaningful engagement.
5. **Inclusive Involvement:** Engagement should actively seek and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected or interested, ensuring diverse voices are heard by decision-makers.
6. **Participant-Centred Design:** Participants should help shape how they engage in the engagement process, fostering ownership and relevance.
7. **Transparent Impact:** Participants must be informed about how their input influenced the final decision, reinforcing trust and accountability.



### Element Three: Applying the framework and measuring our success

The ILSC is developing a suite of resources and tools to support the practical application of the principles and values in our engagement practices.

The ILSC's Performance and Evaluation Framework will be used to evaluate our engagement.



Images L-R: Gelganyem Group 20-year celebration representing Traditional Owners of Country in the East Kimberley, WA – Image by Landi Bradshaw

Myroodah Station divestment ceremony on the traditional lands of the Nyikina Mangala people, West Kimberley, WA – Image by ILSC

Alec Baker with Eric Barney in the Iwantja Arts studio with their intergenerational collaborative painting Ngura (Country), Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands, SA – Image by Rhett Hammerton

Wuthathi Aboriginal Corporation Rangers discussing tactics on Wuthathi Country, QLD – Image by ILSC

# Element One: Principles

## Principle One - Cultural Safety

### Definition

At the ILSC, cultural safety refers to actively addressing and overcoming the power imbalances that exist between the majority non-Indigenous population and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders peoples. It ensures that individuals are not subject to assault, challenge, or denial of their identity, needs, or cultural expression.

Cultural safety is achieved when actions taken by individuals, organisations, and systems from the majority position recognise, respect, and nurture the unique cultural identity of First Nations peoples. Importantly, only the Individual receiving a service or participating in an interaction can determine whether it is culturally safe.

A culturally safe environment is one where First Nations peoples feel respected, empowered, and supported to express their identities, beliefs, and values without fear of discrimination. It goes beyond passive tolerance to actively promote inclusivity, understanding, and equity.

### Cultural Safety in Engagement

The ILSC's engagement practices are guided by the following cultural safety principles:

**Accountability:** Everyone is responsible for identifying, preventing, and responding to both overt and covert forms of racism to create culturally safe and inclusive spaces.

**Respect:** Respect for culture, community, and individuals is essential for culturally safe practice.

**Partnership:** Meaningful partnerships are central to cultural safety. All parties benefit from investing in culturally safe policies and practices.

**First Nations peoples leadership:** Indigenous people lead the way in defining what a culturally safe working environment looks like.

**First Nations peoples expertise:** The ILSC values the traditional knowledge and worldviews of Indigenous people, recognising their contributions to enhancing our work.

**Equity:** Cultural safety requires reasonable adjustments to accommodate individual needs, including gender, religion, sexuality, and other factors. Indigenous people are not a homogenous group.

**Self-determination:** First Nations peoples have the inherent right to make decisions and control the engagement space—both individually and collectively—within the context of their cultural, social, political, and economic development.



## Principle Two - Self-determination

### Self-determination and Engagement

The ILSC understands that First Nations peoples seek and require self-determination in matters that affect them. That is why this principle is central to our engagement practices.

Self-determination is a cornerstone of meaningful engagement. It recognises the inherent right of Indigenous people to define their own priorities, goals, and pathways for the future—free from external interference or coercion.

At the ILSC, self-determination means that First Nations peoples have **power and control** over their political, economic, social, and cultural development. They make decisions about the policies, programs, and projects that affect their lives, and those decisions are respected and supported.

Self-determination may look different across communities. There is no single model or pathway—it must be defined and led by each group. However, it begins with access to information, power, and control.

### ILSC's Commitment to Self-determination

The ILSC is committed to embedding self-determination across all its activities. Our long-term approach focuses on:

- **Removing barriers** to self-determination within the ILSC.
- **Supporting First Nations peoples** to pursue self-determined outcomes.
- **Influencing others** to uphold and promote self-determination.

To deliver on this commitment, the ILSC will publish a **self-determination Statement of Commitment**, marking an important step in our self-determination journey.

### Our Country Our Future and Self-determination

The Our Country Our Future (OCOF) program is the ILSC's principal funding program. The program aims to maximise self-determination by taking a partnership approach, enabling proponents to choose their priorities and preferences within the bounds of the ILSC's mandate as prescribed within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Act (The ATSI Act) and described in the current OCOF program guidelines.

Key components of OCOF are:

- **Direct funding** for purchasing, managing, and/or developing land or water-related interests.
- **Advice and capability support** for property owners including information, knowledge, and training to assist with project development and delivery.





- **Facilitation, advocacy, and negotiation** to develop partnerships, markets, and other opportunities.

### **Divestment and Self-determination**

The ILSC works with First Nations peoples to prioritise the timely and sustainable divestment of land and water related interests and rights into their sole ownership. This approach ensures that control over Country is transferred, supporting long-term self-determination.

### **Principle Three – Free, Prior and Informed Consent**

The ILSC recognises and commits to supporting the realisation of rights of First Nations peoples to self-determination and to freely pursue their economic, social, and cultural development. In doing so, the ILSC also recognises the right of Indigenous peoples to give or deny their FPIC for projects that materially affect their land and their natural resources (as protected in United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People).

FPIC means that Traditional Owners have given consent:

- Free from force, intimidation, manipulation, coercion or pressure and self-directed by the community from whom consent is being sought.
- Prior to the project starting and before key decisions are made.
- After Indigenous people are fully informed about the costs, benefits, risks and any other implications of the project, and can seek independent advice.

### **Determining Consent**

To emphasise the interrelatedness of engagement and consent in the context of United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) principles, engagement in the Declaration refers to a good-faith consultation process. Consent, specifically FPIC, signifies Indigenous peoples' right to agree to or reject decisions affecting them, after receiving full information.

It is the ILSC's preferred approach that Traditional Owner Groups manage their own engagement and consent activities with other affected Traditional Owners in forming a proposal to present to the ILSC under our acquisition, divestment and management functions.

### **Principle Four – Economic Empowerment**

Economic empowerment is a transformative process that enables First Nations peoples to gain control over their economic futures. It goes beyond land acquisition to include decision-making about financial resources, opportunities, and long-term wealth creation.



Since 2019, First Nations leaders have driven a shift away from deficit-based social policy narratives toward Indigenous led wealth creation. This movement aligns with global trends in investment across energy, climate, and environmentally positive sectors, as nations respond to the urgent impacts of climate change.

The ILSC believes economic empowerment must be grounded in a rights-based foundation, where First Nations peoples are recognised as equal partners in the nation and its economy.

### **Economic empowerment and engagement**

The ILSC is committed to supporting First Nations peoples to achieve their economic goals **on their terms and in their own way**. A key engagement goal is to assist communities on this journey.

We support economic empowerment and self-determination by removing barriers to economic participation and opening pathways for wealth creation. Under the OCOF program and our other activities the ILSC will:

- Function as a **strategic financier and facilitator**, supporting Indigenous people to access, use, and care for Country in ways that align with their aspirations.
- Continue to support Indigenous people to **leverage and grow assets and rights** gained through the land rights movement, native title, and other recognition schemes.
- Go beyond grant-making to enable Indigenous groups **to optimise the use and care of Country** for long-term benefit.
- Improve services and continue efforts to **return power and control** to Indigenous communities through divestment of operating businesses and landholdings.

### **Priority Sectors**

The ILSC supports First Nations leadership and participation in five priority sectors identified through NILSS 2023-28 consultations:

- Carbon
- Environmental Markets
- Renewables and Clean Energy
- Inland Water
- Fisheries and Aquaculture

This will amplify Indigenous voices and economic aspirations in emerging industries.



## First Nations Economic Empowerment Alliance

The ILSC is a proud member of the First Nations Economic Empowerment Alliance, which is working to develop a comprehensive Indigenous economic policy framework. This alliance aims to:

- Position First Nations peoples as genuine partners in the Australian economy.
- Drive a transformative shift in how Australia views and engages with First Nations communities.
- Ensure First Nations economies are visible, valued, and recognised as essential to national prosperity.

## Principle Five – Data Empowerment

Data Empowerment is our commitment to ensuring First Nations peoples have **ownership, control**, and the ability to make informed decisions using their data. It goes beyond access—it is about **agency, governance, and benefit**.

To support this commitment, we are developing an **ICIP and Indigenous Data Sovereignty policy**.

### Core Pillars of Data Empowerment:

**Data Sovereignty:** First Nations peoples have the right to own, control, access, and possess data about their people, knowledge systems, and territories.

**Indigenous Cultural Intellectual Property (ICIP) Protection:** Respecting and safeguarding the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of First Nations peoples, regardless of how it is collected or stored.

### *Four Core ICIP Principles*

We are guided by the following ICIP principles:

- **Recognition & Respect:** ICIP rights are acknowledged alongside legal rights.
- **Self-determination:** Sensitivity and confidentiality are respected.
- **Custodianship:** Digital tools are used to manage and store ICIP responsibly.
- **Impacts & Benefits:** ICIP is used only under agreed conditions, with attribution and benefit-sharing.

### *Key Practices*

- **Accessibility:** Stakeholders can easily access their data when needed.
- **Governance & Control:** Policies and frameworks ensure secure, compliant, and respectful data use.



- **Ethical Data Use:** Embedding ICIP protocols, privacy laws, and sovereignty principles in all engagements.

### *Privacy & Protection*

- ICIP is protected by ILSC protocols, policies, and contracts.
- Personal Information is protected under the Privacy Act and the ILSC Privacy Policy.

### *Engagement Approach*

The ILSC's data empowerment engagement approach will include:

- Transparent processes.
- Optional knowledge agreements.
- Demonstrated expertise in navigating First Nations protocols, legislation, and social norms.

## **Principle Six – Ethical Engagement**

Ethics, in the context of our work, can be meaningfully understood through the Wiradjuri concept of *yindyamarra*. This principle encourages us to:

- Act with honour, respect, and wisdom.
- Move slowly and responsibly.
- Be gentle, polite, and honest.
- Be mindful of our words and actions.
- Understand the impact we have on others and the world around us.

At the ILSC, ethics guide our engagement practices to be open, honest, inclusive, respectful, fair, collaborative, and informative.

Our approach ensures that the rights of First Nations peoples are upheld through clearly defined ethical principles embedded in every engagement.

### **ILSC Ethical Principles**

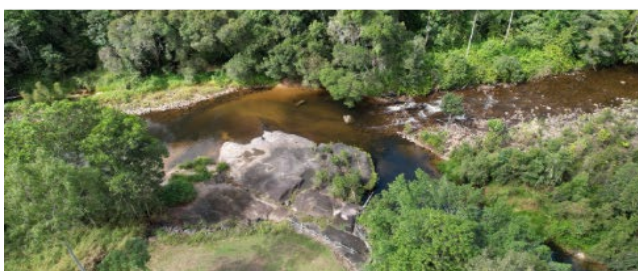
We uphold the following principles in all our engagements with First Nations peoples, communities, and organisations:

- **Respect for Self-determination:** Supporting First Nations peoples' rights to make decisions about their own lives and futures.
- **Accountability:** Recording our commitments and following through on them.
- **Inclusivity & Cultural Authority:** Ensuring engagement with individuals who hold cultural authority, and addressing barriers related to gender, disability, and age.





- **Equity:** Actively addressing power imbalances in engagement processes.
- **Honesty:** Providing accurate information and being transparent about stakeholder influence in decision-making.
- **Transparency:** Sharing all relevant information openly.
- **Do No Harm:** Prioritising cultural safety in all interactions.
- **Do Good & Promote Wellbeing:** Ensuring projects deliver shared benefits to communities.
- **Authenticity:** Communicating sincerely and with integrity.
- **Accessibility:** Designing engagement processes that are inclusive, which may include going on Country, covering travel and remuneration, and addressing language barriers.



Images L-R: Celebrating the independent Tiwi carbon enterprise in Wurrumiyanga on Bathurst Island, Tiwi Country, NT – Image by ILSC

Boab tree in Derby region, Wilonggin Country, WA– Image by Boy From Beyond

View of Girramay National Park at the Jumbun community, Girramay Country, QLD – Image by Marky G Enterprises

Galari Agricultural Company farm hands Luke Singh and Cody Wright, Wiradjuri Country, NSW - Image by Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation

## Principles in Action

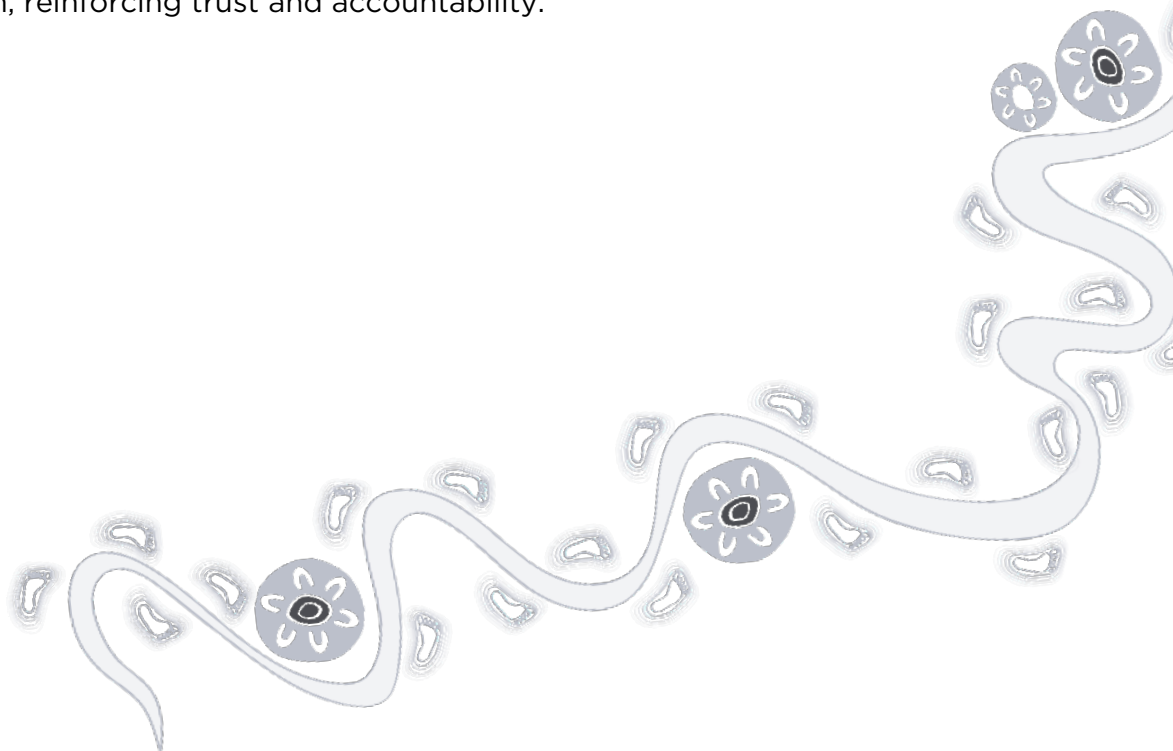
Principle	Our Objective	What we will do
<b>Cultural Safety</b>	Creating environments where First Nations peoples feel respected and free from harm.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide cultural safety training for staff.</li> </ul>
<b>Self-determination</b>	Supporting communities to lead their own development and decision-making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver the Self-determination Statement of Commitment.</li> <li>Continually improve our service to support our partners to move towards Self-determination on their terms.</li> </ul>
<b>Free, Prior and Informed Consent</b>	Ensuring decisions are made freely, with full understanding and without coercion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide early and accessible information.</li> <li>Respect community timelines and decision-making processes.</li> </ul>
<b>Economic Empowerment</b>	Enabling First Nations peoples to control their economic futures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support access to finance and markets.</li> <li>Divest land and businesses to Indigenous ownership.</li> </ul>
<b>Data Empowerment</b>	Ensuring communities control and benefit from their data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop Data Empowerment Policy.</li> <li>Embed ICIP protocols in data use.</li> </ul>
<b>Ethical Engagement</b>	Building trust through respectful, transparent, and reciprocal relationships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply Wiradjuri concept of <i>yindyamarra</i>.</li> <li>Uphold ethical standards like honesty, equity, and respect.</li> </ul>



## Element Two: Guiding Values for Ethical Engagement

As we continue to strengthen our engagement practices, the ILSC is guided by the following values to ensure **respectful, inclusive, and impactful collaboration** with First Nations peoples:

1. **Right to Participate:** Individuals and communities affected by decisions have the right to be involved in the decision-making process.
2. **Informed Participation:** Participants are provided with clear, relevant, and timely information to support meaningful engagement.
3. **Influence on Decisions:** Engagement includes a commitment that public input will meaningfully influence outcomes.
4. **Inclusive Involvement:** Engagement actively seeks and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected or interested, ensuring diverse voices are heard.
5. **Sustainable Decisions:** Decisions are strengthened by recognising and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision-makers.
6. **Participant-centred Design:** Participants help shape how they will be involved in the engagement process, fostering ownership and relevance.
7. **Transparent Impact:** Participants are informed about how their input influenced the final decision, reinforcing trust and accountability.



## Ethical Values in Action

Value	Our objective	What we will do
<b>Right to Participate</b>	Individuals and communities affected by decisions have the right to be involved in the decision-making process. This is a foundational democratic and human rights principle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensure early and ongoing invitations to participate.</li> <li>▪ Recognise cultural authority and community-defined representation.</li> <li>▪ Avoid tokenistic involvement by enabling genuine influence.</li> </ul>
<b>Informed Participation</b>	Participants must be provided with clear, relevant, and timely information to support meaningful engagement. Information should be accessible and culturally appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Use plain language, visual aids, and translations.</li> <li>▪ Share information in formats preferred by communities (e.g. oral, radio, graphics).</li> <li>▪ Provide updates throughout the engagement process.</li> </ul>
<b>Influence on Decisions</b>	Engagement must include a commitment that public input will meaningfully influence outcomes. This builds trust and accountability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Document how feedback shaped decisions.</li> <li>▪ Include community voices in final reports and recommendations.</li> <li>▪ Avoid predetermined outcomes.</li> </ul>
<b>Inclusive Involvement</b>	Engagement should actively seek and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected or interested, ensuring diverse voices are heard.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Engage with youth, elders, women, and people with disabilities.</li> <li>▪ Address barriers to participation (e.g. travel, childcare, language).</li> <li>▪ Use culturally safe spaces and formats.</li> </ul>





<b>Sustainable Decisions</b>	Decisions are strengthened by recognising and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision-makers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Balance short-term and long-term community goals.</li> <li>▪ Consider environmental, cultural, and economic impacts.</li> <li>▪ Use shared benefits frameworks.</li> </ul>
<b>Participant-Centred Design</b>	Participants should help shape how they engage in the process, fostering ownership and relevance. Engagement should be flexible and responsive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Co-design engagement plans with communities.</li> <li>▪ Allow communities to choose meeting formats, locations, and timelines.</li> <li>▪ Respect local protocols and decision-making structures.</li> </ul>
<b>Transparent Impact</b>	Participants must be informed about how their input influenced the final decision, reinforcing trust and accountability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Share final decisions and explain how input was used.</li> <li>▪ Provide feedback loops and follow-up sessions.</li> <li>▪ Publish summaries and outcomes in accessible formats.</li> </ul>



## Element Three: Applying the framework and measuring our success

### Applying the Framework

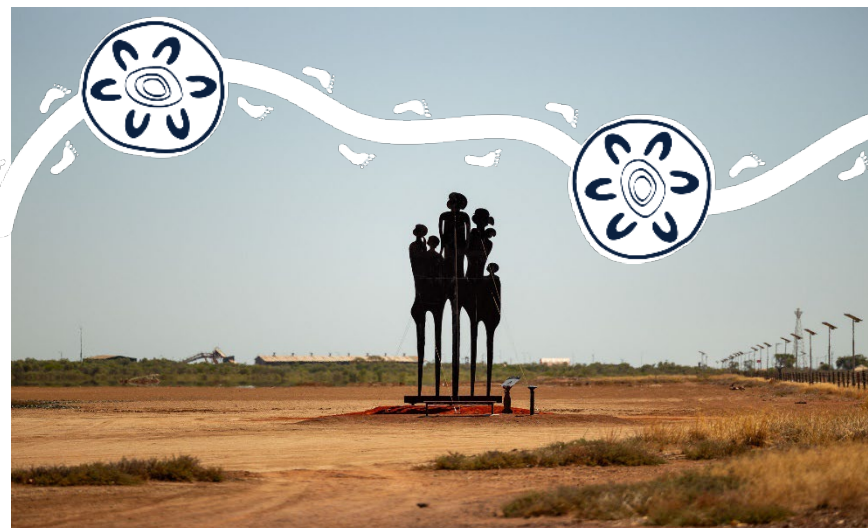
The ILSC is developing a suite of resources to support the consistent application of our engagement principles and values. These tools will help embed culturally responsive, transparent, and outcomes-focused engagement across the organisation.

Resources currently under development include:

- Community engagement guidelines
- Engagement planning templates
- A Data Empowerment Policy and companion resources, including a guide to the use of Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP)
- A remuneration guideline
- A shared benefits framework

### *Using the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation*

The ILSC has adopted the IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum as a foundational engagement methodology. The Spectrum provides a structured approach to defining the level of public participation—ranging from Inform to Empower—and supports consistent identification, description, and implementation of effective engagement strategies.




Images L-R: 'Family' Sculptures on the Marsh, Derby, Wilinggin Country WA – Image by Boy From Beyond

Divestment Ceremony for Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation, Whadjuk Boodja, WA – Image by Cole Baxter

## IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation

Applying the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation methodology ensures we are framing our engagement correctly.

	INCREASING SHARED DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY				
					
	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
Goal of public participation	To provide participants with balanced information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain feedback on analysis, alternatives, and/or decisions.	To collaborate directly with participants throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place the final decision-making in the hands of the public.
Promise to the public	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to, and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision. We will seek your feedback on drafts and proposals.	We will collaborate with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will collaborate with you to formulate solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.
Example Tools	Website, fact sheets, email and mailing lists, social media platforms.	Focus groups, public comment periods, surveys, public meetings, interactive tools.	Workshops, deliberative forums.	Advisory committees, participatory decision-making processes.	Delegated decision-making.

## Measuring Our Success

The ILSC's Performance and Evaluation Framework will be used to inform engagement evaluations, but other methodologies can be used where and as appropriate.

### *ILSC Performance Framework*

The ILSC's Performance Framework (available online [ilsc.gov.au](http://ilsc.gov.au)) provides a clear line of sight between what the ILSC plans to achieve and what is delivered, fostering trust and credibility with Indigenous stakeholders and partners. It ensures transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement across the organisation.

### *Indigenous Evaluation Framework*

The Indigenous Evaluation Framework (IEF) is in development and once endorsed will be embedded in the Performance Framework. The IEF extends the ILSC's Performance Framework with the aim of improving the cultural appropriateness of ILSC evaluation practice, primarily by ensuring that Indigenous perspectives, priorities and knowledges are considered throughout all phases.

The IEF promotes self-determination, partnership and reciprocal accountability. It aims to embed Indigenous ways of knowing, being, and doing throughout the evaluation lifecycle, ensuring that evaluation is not only methodologically sound but also culturally grounded, ethically conducted, and community-led.

By aligning with the aspirations in the IEF, evaluation practice becomes a tool for shared learning, empowerment, and continuous improvement. It supports the ILSC to engage with communities in ways that are transparent, respectful, and culturally safe, ensuring that performance is measured not only through metrics, but through relationships, outcomes, and long-term impact that matter to the communities we serve.

Collectively, the ILSC's Performance Framework and IEF ensure that all programs and services meet consistent standards of excellence, reinforcing the ILSC's commitment to respectful, reliable, and high-impact engagement with Indigenous communities.

Engagement processes will be supported by evaluation plans where and as appropriate; resources are currently being developed to support this objective.

This will ensure our engagement efforts are aligned with our principles and objectives and our measurement is compatible with the ILSC's Performance and Evaluation Framework.





## About Us

The ILSC is a corporate Commonwealth entity that was established in 1995 to address the historic dispossession of First Nations peoples. We were previously known as the Indigenous Land Corporation and became the ILSC in 2019 when our scope was expanded to include salt and freshwater interests.

Our establishment formed part of the government's response to the historic Mabo judgement, which recognised that Indigenous ownership of land existed before colonisation and instigated the Native Title Act 1993. Acknowledging that many Indigenous people would be unable to regain control of their land under this Act, our role was, and still is, to complement native title laws and assist dispossessed Indigenous people to acquire and manage Country.

Through enabling access and management of Country, we aim to generate economic, environmental, social, or cultural benefits for First Nations peoples. This remains at the heart of what we do now and what we will continue to do.

Each year the ILSC receives funding from the First Nations peoples Land and Sea Future Fund (the Fund) to run its operations and provide funding to Indigenous people. The Fund was initially established through a government endowment of more than \$1 billion and, through investment and management, is now worth over \$2 billion. The Fund enables the ILSC to be financially self-sufficient and, in 2023 – 2024, we received \$62.2 million to conduct our activities. This money is thought of as Indigenous people's money, so it is especially important that the way the ILSC spends it is aligned with the aspirations and priorities of Indigenous people for Country.

## Our Vision

First Nation's people enjoy the rightful entitlements, opportunities, and benefits that the return and management of Country brings.

## Our Purpose

We assist Indigenous people to acquire and manage land and water to provide economic, environmental, social, or cultural benefits.

## More Information

If you would like more information on this and any of our other initiatives. Please contact your nearest office.





Australian Government  
Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation



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PEOPLE. COUNTRY. OPPORTUNITY.



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Established in 1995, and now operating under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005*, we provide for the contemporary and future land needs of Indigenous peoples, particularly those unlikely to benefit from Native Title or Land Rights.

We work with our Indigenous partners to grow their economic, environmental, cultural and social capital by supporting their acquisition and management of land and water. In redressing dispossession, we provide for a more prosperous and culturally centred future for Indigenous peoples.

The Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation is a Commonwealth entity under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.



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