

INDIGENOUS ESTATE IN SPOTLIGHT AS ILC GROUP DELIVERS STRONG INDIGENOUS OUTCOMES

The Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) Group has released its Annual Report showing the ILC and its three wholly-owned subsidiary companies delivered strong benefits to Indigenous people in 2015-16.

The ILC Group consists of:

- The ILC – delivering land acquisition and land management programs and other support to Indigenous groups nationally
- National Indigenous Pastoral Enterprises Pty Ltd (NIPE) – agribusiness subsidiary
- Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia Pty Ltd (Voyages) – tourism subsidiary
- National Centre of Indigenous Excellence Pty Ltd (NCIE) – not-for profit social enterprise subsidiary.

601

Indigenous
staff employed
through agri &
tourism
business

2,745

Indigenous
training
completions

INDIGENOUS TRAINING AND JOBS

At 30 June 2016 the ILC Group was a significant employer of Indigenous people: more than a quarter of ILC staff were Indigenous, 52 per cent of NCIE staff, 37 per cent of Voyages staff and 62 per cent of NIPE staff. A total of 601 Indigenous staff were employed directly through the ILC's agricultural and tourism subsidiaries in 2015-16, against 521 in 2014-15. The tourism and agricultural businesses employed a further 287 Indigenous trainees.

The ILC's Merriman Shearing School near Brewarinna, NSW, continued to turn out fully-accredited, industry-standard shearers and wool handlers. More than 140 young Indigenous people have now graduated from the 16-week shearing program, which achieves a 75 per cent completion rate.

In 2015-16 the NCIE's JobReady program trained 98 Indigenous people in construction and hospitality, with more than 30 supported into employment.

In addition, the ILC's land acquisition and land management projects assisted Indigenous groups to employ 1096 Indigenous people. ILC projects helped support 3014 Indigenous people to undertake training through Indigenous organisations, resulting in 2745 training completions.

INDIGENOUS AGRIBUSINESS

NIPE recorded a strong financial result from the 14 agribusinesses, mainly involved in the northern live-export cattle sector, generating more than \$28m in revenue in 2015-16. Higher cattle prices and greater throughput at NIPE's Roebuck Export Depot near Broome, WA contributed to the strong financial result.

Nett profits from Agribusinesses were invested back into Indigenous jobs and skills development, infrastructure upgrades and work to protect cultural and environmental sites on NIPE managed land.

NIPE's National Indigenous Advisory Services pastoral unit assisted 15 other Indigenous-owned businesses in the Northern Territory to manage 81,000 head of cattle across more than 2.4m hectares.

\$28m

agribusiness
revenue

INDIGENOUS LAND CORPORATION GROUP RESULTS 2015-16



Australian Government
Indigenous Land Corporation

82.5%
occupancy
rate at
Ayers Rock
Resort

Revenues
now at
\$140m

INDIGENOUS TOURISM

Voyages achieved record levels of business in 2015-16. More than 200,000 room nights were sold at Ayers Rock Resort (Yulara, NT), resulting in a resort-wide occupancy rate of 82.5 per cent, up from 74.4 per cent the previous year. Total revenues grew by 13.4 per cent to \$140.6m. Indigenous employment has continued to increase with Indigenous staff now representing one third of the resort's workforce.

Mossman Gorge Centre north of Cairns, Qld, welcomed 321,000 visitors during 2015-16, a 16 per cent increase on the previous year. Total revenue at Mossman increased to \$4.4m up from \$3.8m the previous year.

INDIGENOUS SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AND SERVICE DELIVERY

NCIE, a not-for-profit charitable enterprise based in Redfern, NSW, enabled around 10,000 Indigenous people from across Australia to benefit from its learning, sports, arts, and health programs along with other services delivered by three other Indigenous organisations resident at the site. The NCIE collaborated with more than 20 partners across government, not-for-profit and corporate sectors to deliver its program. They included the Telstra Foundation (for the Indigenous Digital Excellence hub) the Packer Family Foundation, Shell Australia, Commonwealth Bank, ING, Westpac, Microsoft, Lendlease and Samsung.

Most of the ILC's urban acquisitions help provide better or more secure premises for Indigenous service delivery. In 2015-16 more than 7000 Indigenous people accessed services provided by organisations benefiting from active ILC land acquisition and land management projects.

10,000
people benefit
from
NCIE-based
programs

ILC Chairperson Eddie Fry said the ILC Group 2015-16 results are an important stepping stone towards the growth of the Indigenous Estate. "Indigenous Australians now have interests in up to 40 per cent of the Australian land mass. With more strategic management this Indigenous Estate could become an important contributor to the prosperity of Indigenous Australians and to Australia's national life," Mr Fry said.

'The challenge my people face is to take advantage of current and emerging opportunities, including a potential agricultural boom fed by growing demands from Asia, to achieve greater economic returns from the assets we hold. The ILC Board is positioning the ILC to help deliver a more commercially-oriented and higher performing Indigenous Estate.

'NIPE is a major vehicle to build a significant Indigenous presence in the agribusiness sector while increasing Indigenous jobs and developing Indigenous-held land. 'Likewise, the outlook for Voyages remains positive with further growth anticipated in the inbound leisure market and strong domestic demand. 'Indigenous Australians have a great deal to offer to Australia's tourism sector and Voyages is leading the way in providing culturally enriching experiences to guests while training and employing Indigenous people to serve in the hospitality industry,' Mr Fry added.

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