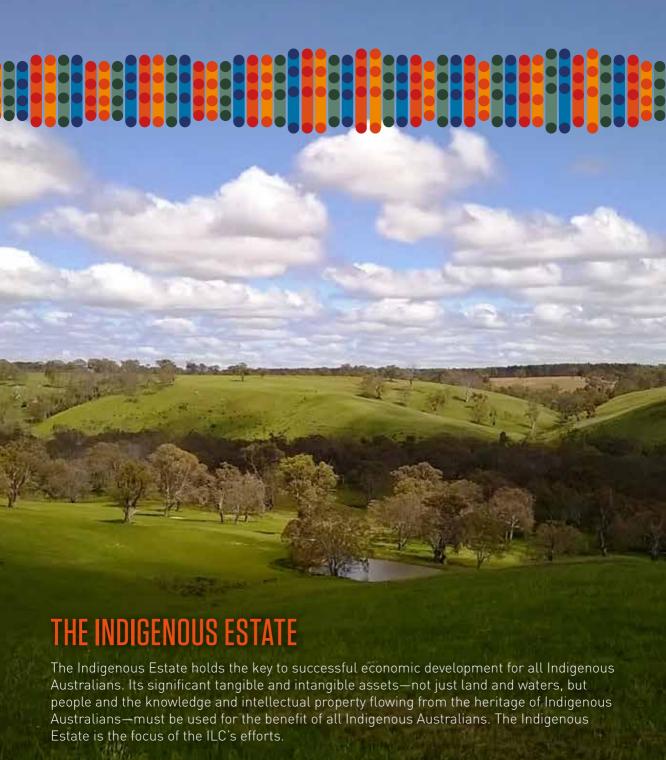




The ILC GROUP

REGIONAL INDIGENOUS LAND STRATEGY (RILS) SOUTH-EAST AUSTRALIA



Winda Mara, Vic Front cover image: Murrayfield Station, Tas





The ILC GROUP

Message from the ILC Chairperson

Welcome to the Regional Indigenous Land Strategy (RILS) for the South-East Australia region—the first time the ILC has, through the RILS, recognised the particular environmental, social and economic features of this vast region.

This RILS represents an additional, more focused layer to the ILC Group's strategic direction as laid out in the National Indigenous Land Strategy (NILS) for the period 2018 to 2022. These are the first national and regional land strategies that I and the current ILC Board have had the honour of presenting to you, our stakeholders and partners in growing the Indigenous Estate.

As you will see throughout the strategies, the ILC is focused on becoming a trusted partner in developing the Indigenous Estate to achieve economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The ILC Board, staff and subsidiary companies are determined to apply the resources available to us to help transform Indigenous-held land and waters and our unique cultural assets into a source of prosperity for this and future generations.

Central to our strategies has been identifying the best ways to invest and partner with you, to make our collective resources go further. On behalf of the ILC Board, I thank those who participated in consultation sessions on these important documents. Your views have informed our way forward.

Please take the time to read through this regional strategy and the national strategy it accompanies. Also check the ILC website and follow us on social media. Most importantly, contact your local ILC office with any ideas you have for projects that fit with this strategy or would benefit from ILC partnership.

Mr Eddie Fry, Chairperson



INTRODUCTION

About the ILC

The ILC is an Australian Government agency established under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005 (the ATSI Act) to assist Indigenous Australians to achieve economic, environmental, social or cultural benefits through land-related projects.

The ILC has two functions, as set out in the ATSI Act:

- to assist Indigenous Australians to acquire land
- to assist in the management of Indigenous-held land, however that land was acquired.

This makes the ILC an important institution in helping to define, enhance, and grow the Indigenous Estate.











2018-2022 RILS

About the National Indigenous Land Strategy and Regional Indigenous **Land Strategies**

The National Indigenous Land Strategy (NILS), a requirement under the ATSI Act. is the ILC's key policy document. The directions laid out in the NILS inform other key documents, including our annual Corporate Plan. The latest NILS was tabled in Parliament in February 2018 and is available at www.ilc.gov.au/NILS

Also required by the ATSI Act are Regional Indigenous Land Strategies (RILS), which provide regions within Australia with an additional, layered framework for the interpretation and implementation of the NILS.

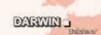
The RILS regions have been restructured for the current NILS period, 2018 to 2022. Previously ILC regions were the six states and the Northern Territory. Now they reflect eco-regions—highlighting important environmental, demographic and economic differences across the continent and the ways these are reflected in the different situations of Indigenous people. In making this change, the ILC Board recognises the opportunities presented through bringing together discrete, but aligned, land parcels within the Indigenous Estate to allow the development of joined-up projects and economies of scale

The following regions underpin the RILS from 2018:

- Northern Australia includes northern Western Australia, the northern areas of the Northern Territory and North Queensland. The climate, environment and general economic-development opportunities in northern Australia differ significantly from the rest of Australia. For example, savanna burning for emissions reduction is viable in this broad region and not in others.
- Desert Australia includes the desert regions of Western Australia, northern South Australia, the Northern Territory, south-west Queensland and north-west New South Wales. As with the Northern Australia region, Australia's arid regions are unique and projects benefit from economies of scale. There is value in considering the opportunities arising in these areas in their own right.
- South-West Australia includes the southern coastal areas of Western Australia west from the South Australian border across to Perth and north to Port Hedland. This region has diverse opportunities in agriculture, land rehabilitation associated with mining, and urban-based industries.
- South-East Australia includes southern South Australia, all of Victoria and Tasmania. most of New South Wales and south-east Queensland. The mostly temperate regions of south-eastern Australia are more heavily populated and urbanised than the other eco-regions, with more intensive and diverse agricultural operations and greater employment and training opportunities in professional and service industries.



SOUTH-EAST AUSTRALIA



Regional Indigenous Land Strategies Regions 2018–2022





15-May-2018 ILC Map No. 2822-se



Australian Government

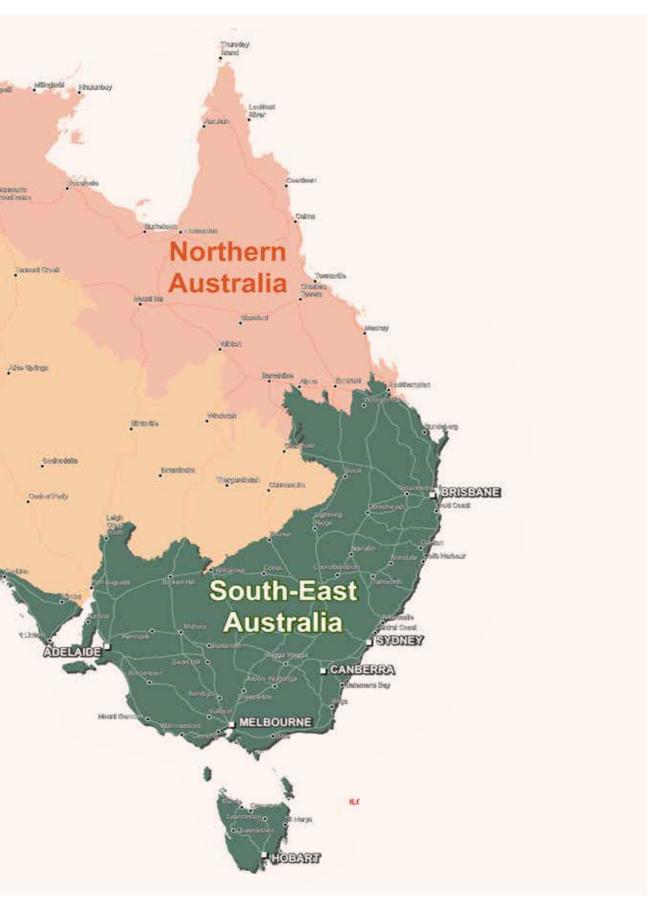
Indigenous Land Corporation

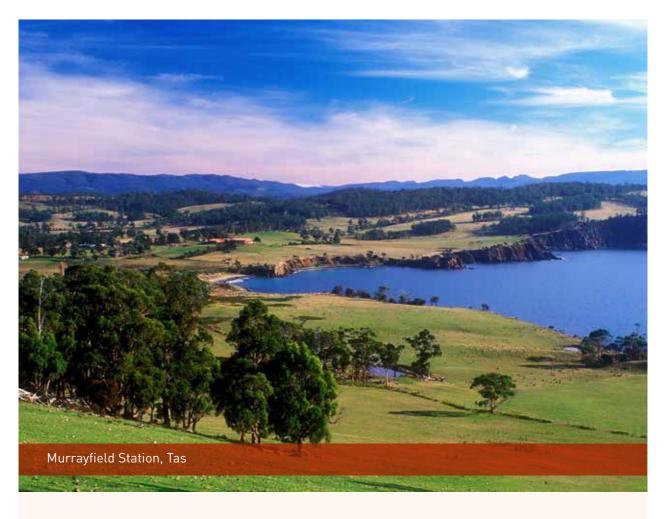
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THE SOUTH-EAST AUSTRALIA REGION

This region covers a land mass of approximately 1.6 million square kilometres. It covers the inland and coastal areas of southern Queensland, all of New South Wales excepting the far north-west corner, all of Victoria and Tasmania, as well as the lower south-east corner of South Australia and a strip of South Australia's west coast. The region is vast and varied, with many different climate and landscape types.

Climates vary from sub-tropical in the northern parts of the region, temperate with dry winters and wet summers in New South Wales, to the largely Mediterranean climate

system across Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia characterised by wet winters and drier summers. There are also colder, highaltitude areas in New South Wales. Victoria and Tasmania with distinctive climates and flora. Rainfall varies from 800-1000 mm along the coast (higher in western Tasmania) to 400-600 mm along the region's inland boundary. Temperature ranges also vary. Though it is generally cooler in the south, prevailing weather patterns in summer can bring intense heat to southerly areas from the centre of the continent









The region includes Australia's largest river system, the Murray-Darling Basin, as well as the Great Dividing Range, Mount Lofty Ranges, the World Heritage Gondwana Rainforests, and the southern end of the Great Barrier Reef. A diverse mix of vegetation is found, including coastal vegetation, heath, temperate rainforest, riparian and estuarine communities, wet and dry sclerophyll forests, and eucalypt woodlands

This region has been the most heavily impacted by European settlement since 1788. It has been extensively cleared and developed for dryland and irrigated agriculture, grazing

and forestry. The region includes coastlines where fishing and aquaculture are significant industries. It is also the most intensely urbanised region. Most of Australia's major population centres, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Hobart and Canberra, are located in this region. These cities are home to large parts of Australia's government, professional and service sectors. Indigenous people's limited land holdings in this region are offset to some extent by the greater educational, employment and commercial opportunities available.





SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND Landscape

This part of the region encompasses important headwater catchments for the Murray-Darling basin. European settlement has significantly impacted the area's rich biota. Land clearing and urbanisation have fragmented ecosystems, leaving them vulnerable to the invasion of pest and weed species. Approximately 97 per cent of the remnant vegetation of the south-east Queensland bioregion is considered to be of either state or regional significance. Important landscape features include the Gondwana Rainforests of the Australian World Heritage Area, the Glass House Mountains National Park (a National Heritage Area), world-class beaches and the Moreton Bay Marine Park, which includes a Ramsar wetland site of international significance.

The landscape varies greatly from coastal habitats, to rainforests, to the more arid inland areas

Climate

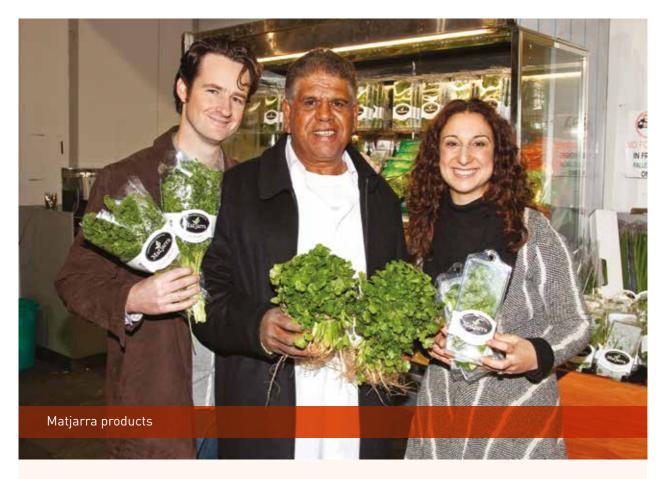
The climate of south-east Queensland is largely sub-tropical. The weather is influenced by tropical systems from the north and fluctuations in the high pressure ridge from the south. Rainfall is summer-dominated; the area receives around 750-1100 mm a year. decreasing in more arid areas. The climate is generally humid in summer, and warmer and drier moving inland.

NEW SOUTH WALES (inc. ACT)

Landscape

New South Wales has a great range of different landscapes. The coastal east of the state has rainforests, with rugged mountains and wooded grasslands. It contains the Sydney basin, Australia's largest urban area. The Great Dividing Range extends from Queensland in the north to Victoria. parallel to the narrow coastal plain. This area includes the Snowy Mountains, the Northern, Central and Southern Tablelands. the Southern Highlands and the South West Slopes. While not particularly steep, many peaks of the range rise above 1000 metres, with the highest Mount Kosciuszko at 2229 metres. Agriculture, particularly the wool industry, is important throughout the highlands.

The western slopes and plains occupy a significant portion of the state's area and are less populated than areas nearer the coast. Agriculture is central to the economy of the western slopes, particularly the Riverina region and Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area in the state's south-west. Regional cities exist primarily to service these agricultural regions. The western slopes descend slowly to the western plains that comprise almost two-thirds of the state and are largely arid or semi-arid.



Climate

The climate of New South Wales is generally mild and temperate although there are large variations depending on proximity to the coast and mountains. Temperatures can be very high in the western inland and very cold in the southern alpine regions.

Long-term median rainfall varies from a low of 200 mm in the arid north-west to a high of more than 1500 mm along the sub-tropical north-east coast. This describes a general trend, with rainfall decreasing from east to west.

VICTORIA

Landscape

The landscapes in Victoria vary greatly from plains, extinct volcanic craters and grassy woodlands to eucalypt woodlands and

forests in the mountain ranges such as the Great Dividing Range and the Grampians. The Murray River, forming its border with New South Wales, supplies an important irrigation-based agricultural area. Dryland cropping dominates in the Wimmera; dairying and horticulture in the coastal Western District. Port Phillip Bay is home to Australia's second most populous urban area (Melbourne-Geelong). As much of the state has been cleared and degraded by agriculture, there are few intact large pockets of native vegetation. There are still extensive forested areas to the east, in Gippsland. The High Plains area of eastern Victoria is dominated by heathland and grassland.

Climate

Rainfall varies greatly across the state. It can be as low as 350 mm in the north-west to as high as 1400 mm in higher altitude regions. Rainfall is winter-dominated.

TASMANIA

Landscape

Tasmania is the most mountainous state in Australia. The Central Highlands area covers most of the central western parts of the state. The Midlands located in the central east is fairly flat and predominantly used for agriculture, although farming activity is scattered throughout the state. Much of Tasmania is still densely forested, with the Southwest National Park and Tarkine in the state's north-west holding some of the last and most extensive temperate rainforests in the Southern Hemisphere. With its rugged topography, Tasmania has a great number of rivers. Several of Tasmania's largest rivers have been dammed at some point to provide hydroelectricity. Many rivers begin in the Central Highlands and flow out to the coast. Tasmania's major population centres, such as Hobart and Launceston, are situated around estuaries

Climate

The island of Tasmania is located in the pathway of the 'Roaring Forties' wind that encircles the globe. The west of Tasmania is the coolest and wettest part of Australia, with some parts receiving up to 3600 mm a year; the centre and east coast are drier.

While rainfall is generally not seasonal, it is heaviest during the winter. The climate is considered temperate, with mild winters and cool summers. Snow, frost and fog are common in winter, and at times other seasons.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Landscape

South Australia's south-east is marked by three peninsulas and three gulfs, a type of coastline not found anywhere else in Australia. This region has a diversified topography, from volcanic cones in Mount Gambier to the continental uplift evident in the Mt Lofty Ranges, to the relatively flat Adelaide plains. The landscapes vary quite significantly from the coastal regions of the Yorke Peninsula to the Mount Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island, to the marine wetlands of the Coorong at the mouth of the Murray River and the limestone cliffs of the southeast coast. The lower Murray is the most significant river system.

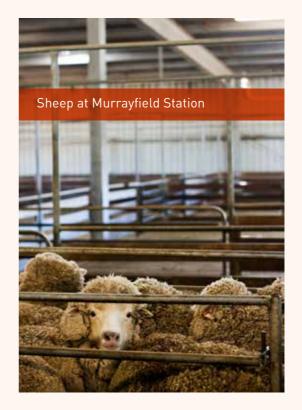


The west coast beyond the Eyre Peninsula is relatively underdeveloped with extensive rugged coastlines and around 250 small islands. The area is relatively low lying, with most areas sitting at around 150 metres above sea level.

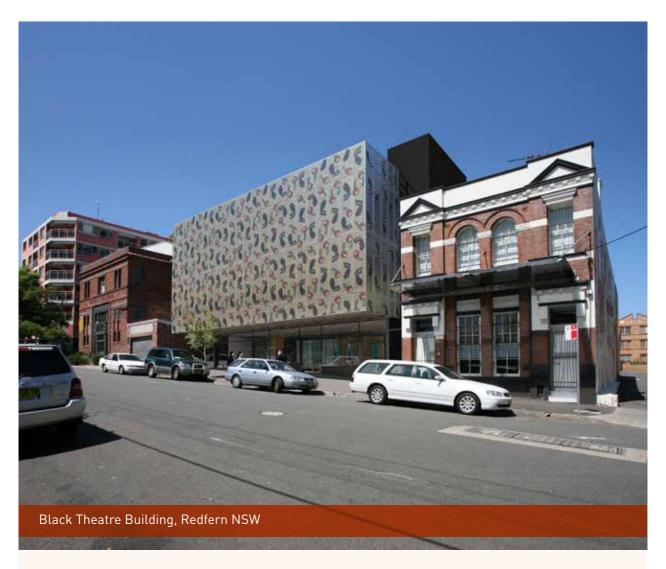
The vegetation in southern South Australia is mainly made up of mallee woodlands and scrublands, with some eucalyptus woodlands and tussock grasslands.

Climate

Temperatures are typical of Mediterraneantype climate systems, with hot dry summers and cool wet winters. The average rainfall for this region varies from around 200 mm a year in more arid areas to 850 mm in Mount Gambier and up to 1000 mm in the Mount Lofty Ranges; it is winter dominated. Rainfall on the west coast varies from approximately 250-600 mm a year, and less in inland areas.







Issues

Threats to the environment arise from the scale and intensity of development and urbanisation; they include soil erosion, habitat fragmentation, excess salinity in soil and water from irrigation practices and land clearing, logging, and invasive introduced plant and animal species.

Climate change is likely to increase average temperatures, continue the trend of decreasing winter rainfall, increase the intensity of extreme rainfall events, produce harsher fire-weather conditions and extend the fire season. In many areas of this region the proximity of forest to development threatens both life and property from fires during warmer months.

Infrastructure

As the most developed and populous part of Australia, the South-East Australia region has the richest networks of infrastructure in the form of roads, rail, utilities (electricity, gas), telecommunications and ports.

Indigenous population

This region has the largest estimated population of Indigenous Australians of all the ILC regions, approximately 311,000 people in 2011. Most Indigenous people in this region live in major urban or regional centres. In 2016, the approximate capital cities Indigenous populations were: Sydney 75,500; Brisbane 56,500 Melbourne 23,500; Adelaide 18,500, Hobart 8,500, Canberra 6,500.

Case study: land acquisition

The ILC has strengthened the Indigenous presence in Sydney through several significant purchases and developments. The building on Elizabeth Street (the former Cyprus-Hellene Club) that hosted the 1938 Day of Mourning and Protest was among the corporation's earliest acquisitions, now divested to the Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council. The ILC redeveloped the site of the Black Theatre in Redfern, transferred from ATSIC in 2005, into a three-storey office building, accommodating Gadigal Information Services home to Koori Radio and the New South Wales Indigenous Chamber of Commerce. In 2006 the ILC bought the former Redfern Public School and developed the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence (NCIE), a community, sporting and cultural hub that opened in 2010 and currently operates as an ILC subsidiary.

Major service-delivery sites acquired include those for Gallang Place mental health service in Brisbane, Mudgin Gal Women's Service and Wyanga Aged Care in Redfern, and the Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service in Melbourne.

Numerous heritage and environmental sites have been purchased in Tasmania including Murrayfield Station, the birthplace of Truganini on Bruny Island; Modder River Station on Cape Barren Island; Victoria the ILC has acquired and granted five properties in the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape in the Lake Condah region in the south-west, as well as part of the Corranderrk Aboriginal Station near Healesville, the Mount Rothwell stone arrangement, the Mount William axe guarry and part of the Sunbury earthen rings.

An important cultural and environmental landscape became an Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) following the ILC's grant of Mawonga Station in western New South Wales to Traditional Owners the Department of the Environment. Mawonga lies in the Cobar Peneplain bioregion, an underrepresented bioregion in Australia's National Reserve System. The property has many important Indigenous rock-art sites, scarred trees and the remains of traditional camp sites, as well as providing habitat for endangered plant and animal species. The grant to Winangakirri Aboriginal Corporation secured ownership of Ngiyampaa Wangaaypuwan traditional land and contributes to cultural revival and reconnection, while helping to preserve the property's environmental values for future generations.

Indigenous-held land

Land-tenure in this region is dominated by freehold land (or leasehold amounting to freehold in the Western Division of New South Wales). Indigenous-held land is generally confined to smaller parcels arising from state land-rights legislation. Commonwealth legislation has resulted the transfer of the most of the Jervis Bay Territory to Aboriginal ownership, as well as two parcels of land in western Victoria.

There are a number of non-exclusive native title determinations, and extensive areas claimed especially in southern Queensland, western New South Wales, western Victoria and South Australia





OPPORTUNITIES

The diversity and relative wealth of this region presents many Indigenous economicdevelopment opportunities.

Urban development

Given that most Indigenous people now live in cities and towns and many inner metropolitan areas (e.g. Redfern, Fitzroy) have a rich Indigenous history, the ILC is looking to strengthen the Indigenous presence in urban areas. The ILC's Urban Strategy (April 2017) prioritises investment to:

- Redress dispossession by protecting urban places of cultural and historical significance, and growing cultural and social assets
- Develop and redevelop urban property assets—driving greater economic returns and building wealth
- Maximise the productivity and use of urban property assets to deliver the greatest benefits for Indigenous people, including social benefits and training and employment opportunities

Build investments, partnerships and collaborations that grow the urban Indigenous Estate, collaborating with Indigenous Business Australia and social and commercial investors.

The strategy builds on many existing activities in urban areas. ILC land-holdings include two urban campuses: the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence in Sydney, NSW, and Clontarf Campus in Perth, WA (South-West Australia region). Both sites have been assessed with a view to maximising the highest and best use of these assets to generate economic sustainability and Indigenous benefits.

In recent years major acquisitions have involved premises for significant Indigenous services organisations in capital cities and major regional centres. The ILC sees value in increasing the visibility of Indigenous urban assets as a means of highlighting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander presence in urban areas, creating meeting places or cultural precincts or facilitating delivery of services at integrated hubs.

Case study: land acquisition

The ILC has a developing partnership with Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC), the Registered Native Title Body Corporate set up to manage around 54,000 ha of determined native title country on Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island), Qld. QYAC's priorities for the land are maintaining culture, caring for country, and training local people for employment.

Land management funding from the ILC enabled QYAC to purchase equipment for a commerciallyfocused land management team, the Quandamooka Community Rangers. After qualifying in conservation and land management through the Australian Government's Green Army project, the rangers worked under the guidance of Elders to develop their capacity to care for country in accordance with their culture.

The rangers have worked on land restoration and management for Minjerribah Camping, a successful business venture between QYAC and Indigenous Business Australia, completing erosion and vegetation management, debris removal and weed treatment to restore the natural and cultural values at a number of sites.

More recently, the ILC has funded the employment of a fixed-term Quandamooka Business Development Officer to develop proposals for QYAC's further participation in the land management and tourism industries

Agribusiness

All forms of agriculture are practised in this region from rangeland pastoralism, through cropping to horticulture. The ILC is looking to assist Indigenous land-holders to increase their presence in agribusiness, including diversification of traditional cropping and grazing land uses. The ILC is also looking for opportunities in agribusiness supply chains that add value to basic agricultural products.

'Carbon farming' (managing land to store carbon in soil or vegetation or reduce emissions of greenhouse gases) is another potential source of land-based income. The brigalow tree, growing in inland and eastern Queensland and northern New South Wales, has carbon-sequestration potential. There is also sequestration potential in mangroves and other wetlands—see 'Water-based activities' on page 21.

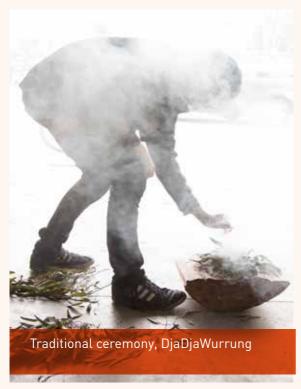
Niche Indigenous products

Across Australia Indigenous people are the custodians of traditional cultural and environmental knowledge. Indigenous land holders could develop enterprises based on growing or wild-harvesting native plants for food, pharmaceutical or cosmetic uses, or the harvesting of protein from native (e.g. emu, kangaroo) or feral animals (e.g. goats). Investment is needed to research potential products, build markets for them, and establish Indigenous people's participation in niche-product supply chains.

Tourism

This region has a varied and significant tourism industry. Indigenous people's connection to land, culture and heritage sites are invaluable assets in the tourism industry, and the demand for Indigenous experiences is increasing exponentially. The association of Aboriginal people with the land is celebrated in significant tourism destinations, such as Tower Hill (Worn Gundidi) in western Victoria, Mutawintii and Mungo National Parks in western New South Wales, the Coorong in South Australia, North Stradbroke Island in Queensland, and the west coast of Tasmania.

Some of the largest public collections of Indigenous art in Australia are in national and state institutions (galleries and museums) in the South-East region.



Major community-owned Indigenous cultural centres are a feature—for example, Tandanya in Adelaide and the Koorie Heritage Trust in Melbourne. Tourists can visit rock art and ceremonial sites in national parks, guided by Aboriginal people, including Australia's two oldest national parks, the Royal National Park in Sydney's south and the Ku-ringgai Chase National Park in Sydney's north. Aboriginal companies are offering increasing numbers of guided walks and tours across the varied landscapes of this region. Most state governments have an Indigenous tourism strategy aimed at building Indigenous capacity in the industry and directing tourists to Indigenous destinations. The ILC can assist Indigenous tourism projects so long as they are connected to Indigenous-held land.



Renewable energies

Australia needs to transform its energy sources to meet internationally agreed emissions-reduction targets (the UN Paris Agreement). If suitable, Indigenous-held land, though not extensive in this region, could be used to generate solar, wind or geothermal energy for on sale to energy retailers.

Water-based activities

The Australian Government's National Aquaculture Strategy (September 2017) aims to double the value of Australia's aquaculture industry over ten years, and recognises that Indigenous rights and interests must be considered in developing projects. Australia's aquaculture industry is most developed in southern Australia, particularly South Australia (tuna, kingfish, oysters, mussels, abalone) and Tasmania (salmon).

Significant wetland/mangrove and seagrass habitats in this region present 'blue carbon' opportunities.

The ILC is currently working with the Australian Government to change its legislation to enable the corporation to invest beyond land to salt and fresh water. This may include support for Indigenous aquaculture businesses, the purchase of fishing licences, or assisting Indigenous groups to care for and reconnect with water country.

Ecosystem services

Indigenous people in all parts of Australia are culturally connected to the need to care for land. Economic opportunities arise from projects that conserve biodiversity or protect and manage environmental values on Indigenous-held land.





RELATIONSHIPS & LINKS

The ILC always seeks to consult and partner with local and regional organisations in taking advantage of opportunities on Indigenousheld land. Collaboration is a core principle underpinning ILC projects. Over the period of this RILS, the ILC will focus on three levels of alliance building: networks aligning Indigenous land holders through their engagement with the Indigenous Estate; partnerships with the ILC on key projects and activities; and strategic alliances - formal arrangements involving the ILC, Indigenous land holders and where appropriate multiple sector involvement government, community, private and not-forprofit. The ILC will work with stakeholders to leverage knowledge of what works from previous and existing projects, tailored to local aspirations and expertise.

The native title representative bodies and service providers across this region are:

First Nations Legal & Research Services (previously Native Title Services Victoria) www.fnlrs1.com

NTSCORP Ltd. NSW

www.ntscorp.com.au

Queensland South Native Title Services, Qld www.qsnts.com.au

South Australia Native Title Services www.nativetitlesa.org

Other statutory land-based organisations are:

Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania

Aboriginal Lands Trust of South Australia www.alt.sa.gov.au

New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council www.alc.org.au

Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council, Jervis Bay, ACT

www.wbacc.gov.au

New South Wales has a network of 120 Local Aboriginal Land Councils:

www.alc.org.au/land-councils/lalcboundaries--contact-details.aspx

As with the overarching New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council, these are established under the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Rights Act.

Given the high Indigenous population of this region, it is home to many significant Indigenous organisations, delivering services in a range of areas (health, legal aid, child care, economic development, housing, advocacy, cultural maintenance, etc.) in addition to the land-related organisations above.



APPENDIX: RELEVANT LEGISLATION

Commonwealth

- Native Title Act 1993
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984
- **Environment Protection and Biodiversity** Conservation Act 1999
- Aboriginal Land Grant (Jervis Bay Territory) Act 1986
- Aboriginal Land (Lake Condah and Framlingham Forest) Act 1987

Tasmania

- Aboriginal Lands Act 1995
- National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002
- Native Title (Tasmania) Act 1994
- Nature Conservation Act 2002

South Australia

- Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988
- Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee Act 2003
- Aboriginal Lands Trust Act 2013
- Native Title (South Australia) Act 1994 and Native Title (South Australia) Regulations 2016
- Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989

Victoria

- Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006
- Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007
- Aboriginal Lands Act 1970
- Traditional Owners Settlement Act 2010

New South Wales/ACT

- Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983
- Heritage Act 1977 (NSW)
- Heritage Act 2004 (ACT)
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
- Native Title Act 1994 (NSW)
- Native Title Act 1994 (ACT)
- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016

Oueensland

- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003
- Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Holding Act 2013
- Aboriginal Land Act 1991
- Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991
- Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995
- Land Act 1994
- Native Title (Queensland) Act 1993
- Nature Conservation Act 1992

Contact us: Freecall 1800 818 490 **Head Office** Level 7, 121 King William Street, Adelaide SA 5000 Ph: (08) 8100 7100 GPO Box 652, Adelaide SA 5001 Fax: (08) 8180 0489 Central Division (SA, VIC, TAS, NT) Level 7, 121 King William Street, Adelaide SA 5000 Ph: (08) 8100 7102 Fax: (08) 8121 9204 GPO Box 652, Adelaide SA 5001 centraloffice@ilc.gov.au Eastern Division (QLD, NSW, ACT) Ph: (07) 3854 4600 67 Astor Terrace, Spring Hill QLD 4004 GPO Box 5212, Brisbane QLD 4001 Fax: (07) 3056 3394 easternoffice@ilc.gov.au **Western Division (WA)** Level 12, Carillon City Tower, 207 Murray Street, Perth, WA 6000 Ph: (08) 9420 6300 Fax: (08) 9467 2800 PO Box 7502 Cloisters Square, Perth WA 6850 westernoffice@ilc.gov.au **Canberra Office** Level 2, 15 Lancaster Place, Majura Park ACT 2609 Ph: (02) 6269 2500 Fax: (02) 6285 4300 PO Box 650 Fyshwick ACT 2609 www.ilc.gov.au **Australian Government**

PEOPLE. LAND. OPPORTUNITY.

Indigenous Land Corporation

The ILC GROUP