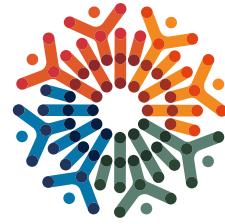




Australian Government

Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation



The **ILSC GROUP**

PEOPLE. COUNTRY. OPPORTUNITY.

Our Country. Our Future.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES





The ILSC acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection and custodianship of land, waters and culture.





Contents

What is the ILSC?.....	4
What is <i>Our Country Our Future</i> ?.....	5
What funding is available?.....	5
How we assess applications	7
How to apply	8
Our commitment to you—what you can expect from us?.....	9
What we expect from you	9
Privacy.....	10
Complaints and Feedback.....	10



What is the ILSC?

The ILSC is an independent statutory authority established under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005 (the ATSI Act). The ILSC has two purposes under the ATSI Act:

- > To assist Indigenous Australians to acquire land and water-related rights
- > To assist in the management of Indigenous-held land and waters, however acquired.

Before providing this assistance, the ILSC must always ensure that economic, environmental, social or cultural benefits will be generated for Indigenous Australians.

We buy and grant land and water-related rights to Indigenous people

We support Indigenous people to preserve and protect culture through connection to country

We build the capacity and capability of Indigenous people to sustainably manage and protect country

We partner with Indigenous people to drive and influence opportunities for their country

OUR ROLE

We invest in projects: providing funding associated with buying, granting, managing and/or developing land/water-related interests and/or foundation projects (such as infrastructure, plant and equipment, feasibility assessment planning activities)

We provide advice and capability support: supporting Indigenous landholders with access to information, training, knowledge and systems to support sustainable management of country and delivery of benefits

We connect Indigenous landowners: build and broker relationships with markets, opportunities, partnerships through facilitation, advocacy and negotiation

OUR OPERATIONS

Indigenous people enjoy opportunities and benefits that the return of country, and its management brings

OUR IMPACT

These guidelines will help you decide whether Our Country Our Future is a good fit for you and your project.



What is *Our Country Our Future*?

Our Country Our Future is the ILSC's national funding program. It operates across urban, regional and remote areas—it doesn't matter where in Australia you live. Through *Our Country Our Future*, the ILSC can provide a wide range of assistance to those proposing projects: from brokering and developing partnerships, to facilitating and coordinating support, to providing funding assistance.

Our Country Our Future has five broad focus areas which are considered to present greater opportunities for Indigenous Australians or where Indigenous landholders may have a competitive advantage:



Conservation/Healthy Country

Land and water-based cultural and environmental protection and the development of associated enterprises.



Urban Investment

Commercial, cultural and social enterprises offering opportunities for urban Indigenous communities.



Tourism

Land and water-based tourism enterprises, including cultural and eco-tourism.



Niche Indigenous Products

Land and water-based enterprises and markets based on Australian flora and fauna, including introduced species, which leverage traditional practices and cultural knowledge.



Agribusiness

Land and water-based enterprises in key sectors including aquaculture, horticulture, agriculture and livestock industries.

For specialist projects, the ILSC is providing targeted assistance in this sector through the Agribusiness Investment Program.

The ILSC offers three broad areas of assistance, the following table sets out what outcomes should be achieved by and for Indigenous people over time as a result of ILSC funding and other support. This can be used as a broad guide to determine whether or not your project can benefit from what the ILSC offers, and whether or not it is aligned to what the ILSC is aiming to achieve.

How we help you	What you want to do	Outcomes we want to work towards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Invest in projects Funding for purchasing, managing, and/or developing land or water-related interests > Provide advice and capability support Support landowners with information, knowledge, training, systems to develop and deliver projects > Connect people Facilitate, advocate, negotiate to develop partnerships, markets, other opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Purchase a land or water-related interest > Commence or expand a land or water-based enterprise > Undertake planning and/or feasibility assessment > Build or upgrade infrastructure, plant or equipment > Conduct on-ground management activities to maintain or improve the condition of country (land, water, biodiversity, cultural heritage) > Address urgent health and safety issues on country (people, livestock, environment) > Enable or improve access to country with cultural significance > Maintain, support and revitalise culture > Develop opportunities for formal and informal training and/or employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Benefits are being generated by and for Indigenous people from the ownership and management of country > Indigenous people have improved individual and group capability, stronger landholding organisations and practises, and broader networks > Indigenous people are growing the value and productivity of country > Indigenous people are sustainably owning and managing country > Indigenous people are preserving and protecting culture through reconnection with country > Indigenous people are driving and influencing policy and opportunity for country



What Our Country Our Future will not support?

Our Country Our Future will not fund:

- > Activities that do not align with its statutory purposes, or do not generate any benefits for Indigenous people
- > Activities that are the responsibility of another agency
- > Any ongoing service delivery/program costs
- > Any ongoing operational costs such as insurance, rates, power, water, etc.
- > Administration/sitting fees
- > Livestock (if applicable)

This list is not exhaustive. For further detail please contact your ILSC office.



Are you eligible?

To partner with the ILSC, you must be able to answer 'yes' to the following:

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Does your project involve the acquisition OR management of land and/or water-related interests?



For projects that involve: **ACQUISITION**

Are you an incorporated entity (or in the process of becoming incorporated) and are you Indigenous-controlled*?



For projects that involve: **MANAGEMENT**

Are you one of the following:

- an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander landholder
- an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander holder of a water-related right
- an incorporated entity
- an organisation interested in investing in Indigenous-held land or waters?

AND

Does your project have the support of the Indigenous land/water holders and have they provided their consent for its use?



Will Indigenous people enjoy access, opportunities and benefits from land or waters as a result of your project?



Are you compliant with your incorporating legislation and any agreements you have with the ILSC?



*In accordance with the ATSI Act 4B an organisation is **Indigenous-controlled** if:

- It is incorporated under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*, and/or
- Indigenous people make up the majority of the organisation's membership and of the membership of its board or governing committee.



How we assess applications?

Our Country Our Future is a competitive funding program. This means your project will be assessed objectively against each of the criteria set out below, **and** against other project proposals received by the ILSC. This process ensures that the ILSC invests its funds as effectively as possible, delivering the highest potential outcomes to Indigenous Australians.

YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE ASSESSED AGAINST THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

OPPORTUNITY AND OUTCOMES

What is the need/opportunity, how will this be addressed, and what outcomes will be delivered as a result? We will consider:

- > evidence of need
- > strength of the opportunity
- > the link from the idea to activities and outcomes
- > whether the plan has clear timeframes and achievable results
- > what steps you have already taken to deliver this project
- > how your project complies with sound land management and environmental practices
- > if the ILSC is the most appropriate funder for your project

PROJECT VIABILITY

Will the proposed activity have sufficient funds to meet its operating (expenditure) requirements and therefore deliver the projected outcomes? We will consider:

- > value for money
- > whether there is sufficient co-investment (partnership funding, income generation, in-kind support) to carry out the activity
- > whether the project can continue beyond the life of ILSC funding

FINANCIAL HEALTH

Has your organisation demonstrated sound financial performance and is it currently in a solid financial position? We will consider:

- > Financial performance (income, expenditure, profit/loss) over the past three years
- > financial position (assets, liabilities, liquidity, debt, equity)
- > stability of your income/funding streams
- > Financial managements processes and controls

CAPABILITY

Can you effectively demonstrate the ability to manage, implement, monitor and report back on the project? We will consider:

- > whether the organisation demonstrates good governance and operates effectively
- > your experience and past performance with similar projects/activities
- > skill levels and experience of staff and project partners (if applicable)



Our Country Our Future is a competitive program with a fixed budget, therefore all applications are assessed against each other. In addition to our standard assessment criteria above, our National Assessment Panel will also assess applications against the following key priority factors:

Priority factors	The ILSC will prioritise projects that demonstrate:
OUTCOMES	The capacity to deliver sustained and/or scalable outcomes beyond ILSC funding - <i>strengthening the outcomes for Indigenous people</i>
LEVERAGED FUNDING	Secured partnership funding and co-investment (including your contribution, in-kind or cash) - <i>maximising value for money</i>
EQUITY	Delivery of outcomes across geographic regions, <i>Our Country Our Future</i> focus areas and individual proponents that the ILSC has historically underinvested in - <i>expanding support to the Indigenous Estate</i>



Pipi harvesting on Ngarrindjeri country, Coorong SA. Image supplied by Kuti Co.



How to apply?

Our Country Our Future is flexible, so you can apply at any time. If you are interested in submitting an application, follow the steps below.



Application process

INITIAL ENQUIRY



APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT



APPLICATION SUBMITTED



PROJECT APPRAISAL



APPLICATION FOLLOW-UP



DECISION AND NOTIFICATION

- > Call the ILSC.
- > Discuss your project proposal
- > Confirm eligibility.
- > Receive an application form.

- > Develop your application.
- > Gather the necessary documentation.
- > Ask for support from the ILSC if required.

- > The ILSC will confirm receipt of your application.
- > If your application is missing important information the ILSC will contact you.

- > The ILSC will assess your application against the criteria listed below.

- > The ILSC will follow up with you to discuss any questions/ concerns or to request additional information before a recommendation is made on your application.

- > The ILSC's National Assessment Panel will meet to assess all applications.
- > You will be notified of the outcome of your project's assessment.



Ready to apply?

Contact the ILSC to discuss your proposal, how we can assist in the completion of your application and whether the ILSC can provide advice on the development of your project to maximise the potential outcomes to be achieved.



Western Divisional Office Perth, Western Australia

T: (08) 9420 6300
E: westernoffice@ilsc.gov.au



Central Divisional Office Adelaide, South Australia

T: (08) 8100 7102
E: centraloffice@ilsc.gov.au



Eastern Divisional Office Brisbane, Queensland

T: (07) 3854 4600
E: easternoffice@ilsc.gov.au

Our commitment to you - *what you can expect from us?*

DURING THE APPLICATION AND ASSESSMENT PROCESS YOU CAN EXPECT THE FOLLOWING FROM THE ILSC:

- > **A partnership approach to work with you to develop and submit your application**
- > **Clear and transparent communication regarding our advice and the application process so you understand what is required at each step**
- > **Timely information and follow up:**
 - Once an application is received, we will keep in contact to let you know how your application is proceeding.
 - We will give you an opportunity to clarify any concerns or questions raised if your application is at risk of not being funded.
 - If your application is unsuccessful, we will provide you with specific feedback to help you understand why the application was not approved.

What we expect from you?

DURING THE APPLICATION AND ASSESSMENT PROCESS WE EXPECT:

- > **Your application form to be submitted in full** with all necessary attachments and supporting documentation. Please be aware that failure to provide this will delay the assessment of your application and may lead to your application not being considered further.
- > **Timely provision of additional documentation** as required to make a fair and efficient assessment. If requested, you will provide all relevant information within a reasonable timeframe. The ILSC reserves the right to discontinue applications if this information is not forthcoming.

IN ADDITION, YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES WILL INCLUDE:

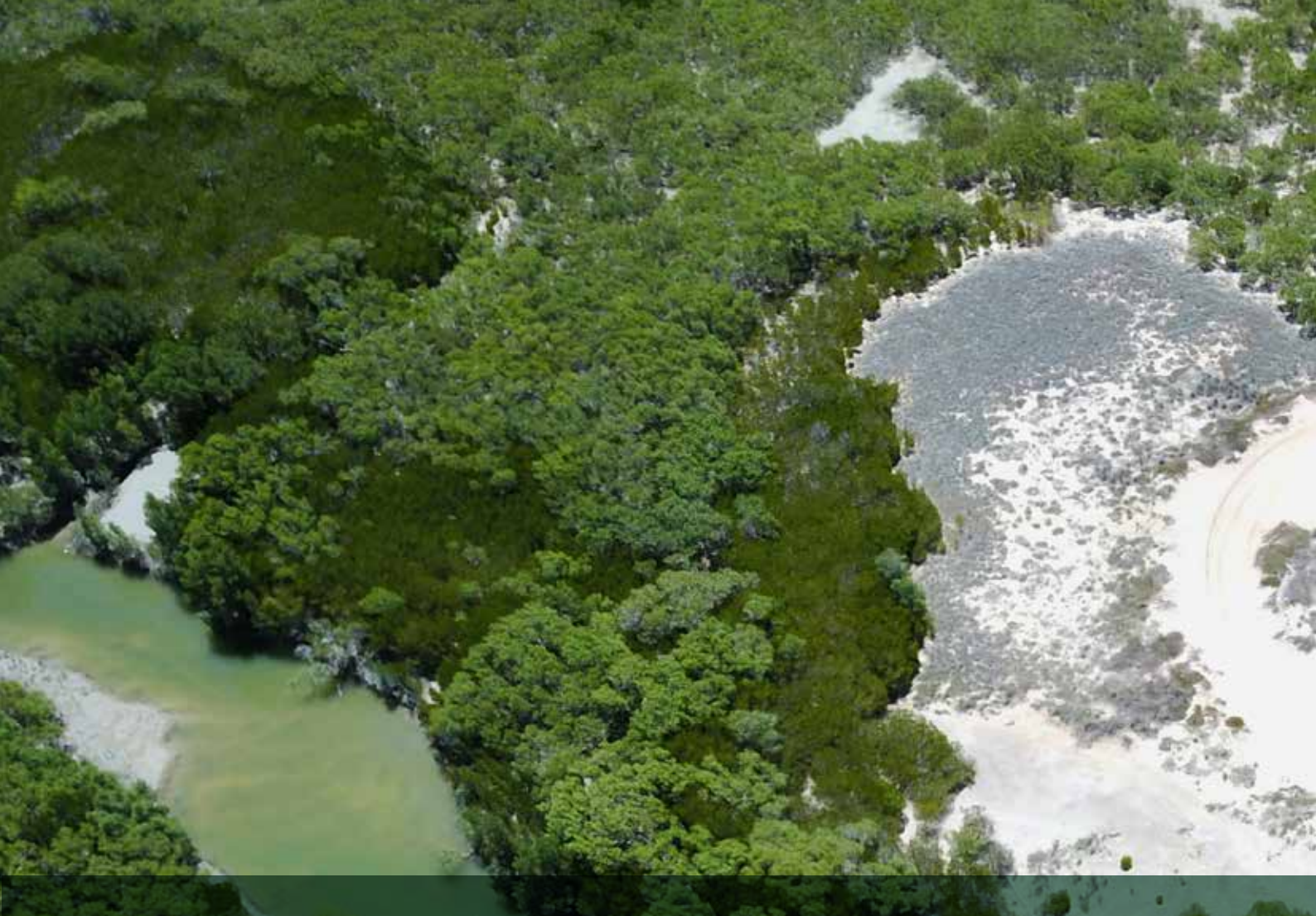
For MANAGEMENT of land and water-related rights:

1. Entering into a **contract** that may include a **work plan** describing how and when the funding and support will be provided and how the project will be implemented.
2. Carrying out the **project activities** as agreed in the contract and, where applicable, the work plan.
3. Submitting **Progress Reports** to demonstrate how you are completing contracted activities, working towards intended outcomes and using ILSC funds'.

For ACQUISITION of land and water-related rights:

1. Being **incorporated** and able to sign a lease and/or be granted the property or water-related rights. Your group must be an **Indigenous-controlled** corporation, permitted to hold assets according to its constitution or rules of incorporation.
2. The ILSC will be responsible for any purchase negotiations. We will work with you to define an agreed strategy, but please do not contact the vendor during purchase negotiations.
3. **Implementing the work plan** agreed with the ILSC including all reporting requirements. Half yearly **Progress Reports** will be required throughout an agreed time period depending on the project.
4. Developing a **Property Management Plan** within the first six months of any lease.
5. Where appropriate, **ensure access** to any culturally significant sites to Indigenous people with traditional links to the property.
6. Signing the ILSC's standard **Deed of Grant** in order to be granted the property or water-related rights.

For all projects, the ILSC may also conduct field visits to inspect the progress of your project and verify information given to the ILSC in Progress Reports.



Privacy

So that the ILSC can assist groups to develop project ideas, the ILSC needs to collect personal information from the proponent and partners and, in some cases, personal information about other members of the proponent's group.

This information will include a person's name, contact details, and relationship to the proponent group and/or landholder. This information will be held by the ILSC in the form of a call log accessible only to ILSC staff. The call log will not be shared with people outside the ILSC. The information in the call log and on any resulting file will be used to assist in the development and assessment of the application.

You are entitled to request the ILSC to disclose information we hold to you upon request. If you find that information held by the ILSC is incorrect you are entitled to request that the ILSC amend the information.

The ILSC Privacy Policy is located on the ILSC website and has more detail on the way the ILSC manages personal information.



Complaints and Feedback

The ILSC is committed to partnering with Indigenous Australians to deliver on their aspirations for country; our commitment to customer experiences is reflected on our Customer Service Charter which sets out mechanisms to consider complaints or any other kind of feedback. If you are not satisfied with your experience in working with the ILSC, you should raise your concern with your contact initially and we will seek to resolve it immediately. If you are not happy with the resolution, you should submit the complaint in writing so it can be formally assessed according to the ILSC's complaints process.

In circumstances where applicants are not satisfied with how the ILSC has dealt with a complaint, they may request the Commonwealth Ombudsman to investigate the matter.





Australian Government

Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation



The ILSC GROUP

PEOPLE. COUNTRY. OPPORTUNITY.

Western Division (WA)

Level 12, Carillon City Tower,
207 Murray Street,
Perth WA 6000

PO Box 7502 Cloisters Square,
Perth WA 6850

T (08) 9420 6300

F (08) 9467 2800

E westernoffice@ilsc.gov.au

Central Division (SA, VIC, TAS, NT)

Level 7, 70 Franklin Street,
Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 652,
Adelaide SA 5001

T (08) 8100 7102

F (08) 8100 7150

E centraloffice@ilsc.gov.au

Eastern Division (QLD, NSW, ACT)

Level 18, 100 Creek Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

GPO Box 5212,
Brisbane QLD 4001

T (07) 3854 4600

F (07) 3056 3394

E easternoffice@ilsc.gov.au

www.ilsc.gov.au
FREECALL 1800 818 490

