



Australian Government

Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation



The ILSC GROUP

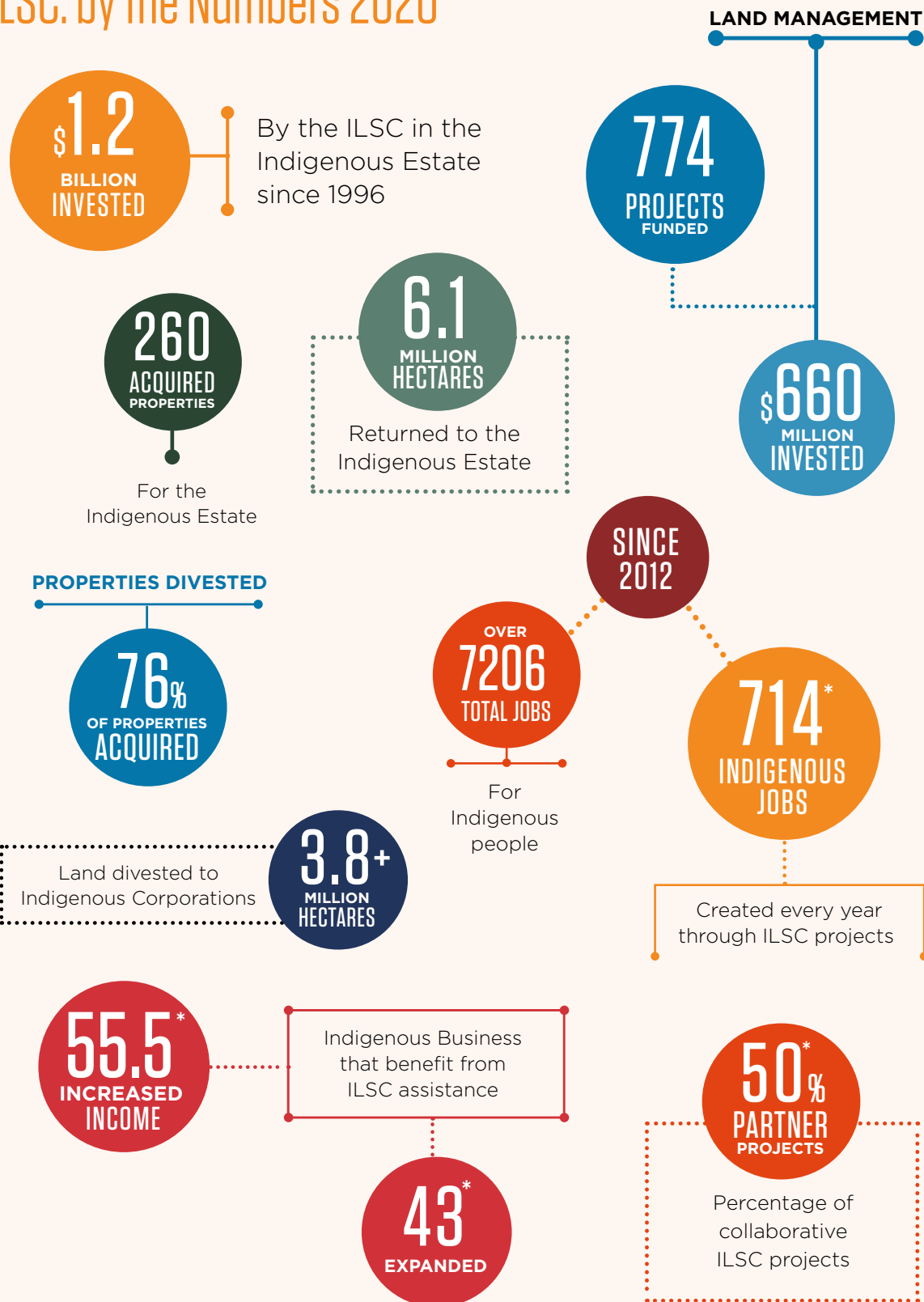
PEOPLE. COUNTRY. OPPORTUNITY.

AUSTRALIAN DESERT REGION

Regional Indigenous Land and Sea Strategy 2019 – 2022



ILSC: by the Numbers 2020



*Average, per year since 2012



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MESSAGE FROM THE ILSC CHAIRPERSON

Welcome to the Regional Indigenous Land and Sea Strategy (RILSS) for the Australian Desert region.

This RILSS represents an additional, more focused layer to the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC) Group's strategic direction as laid out in the National Indigenous Land and Sea Strategy (NILSS) for the period 2019 to 2022. These are the first national and regional land and sea strategies that include water-based activities, following from legislative changes to the ILSC and its role.

This RILSS reaffirms the ILSC's commitment to being the trusted partner in developing this Indigenous Estate and introduces our impact driven vision of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoying opportunities and benefits that the return of country and its management brings. We will deliver against this in the Australian Desert region by:

- > Acquiring, granting and divesting land and water interests to Indigenous corporations;
- > Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to strengthen culture through reconnection with country;
- > Building the capacity and capability of Indigenous corporations to sustainably manage and protect country; and
- > Partnering with Indigenous corporations to drive and influence opportunities on country.

This RILSS has been developed with your input. On behalf of the ILSC Board, I thank all of you who made the time to participate in consultation sessions – your insights have informed the detail of this strategy. We will continue the conversation around the ILSC's role nationally and in the Australian Desert region by refreshing both the NILSS and RILSS in 2020.

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

We look forward to working with you.

Eddie Fry, ILSC Chair

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➤ INTRODUCTION

The Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC) is an independent statutory authority established under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (the ATSI Act) to assist Indigenous people to acquire and manage interests in land and waters to achieve economic, environmental, social or cultural benefits.

The ILSC has two purposes, as set out in 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 it was acquired.

This gives the ILSC an important role in working with Indigenous people to define, enhance, and grow the Indigenous Estate.

The Indigenous Estate is a central concept in the strategy of the ILSC that encompasses both tangible and intangible assets and attributes relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It includes interests in land, waters and economic development, and also complex human capital elements, including people, society, knowledge and intellectual property flowing from Indigenous Australians' unique culture.

OUR ROLE

We buy and divest 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 OPERATIONS

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

We provide advice and capability support: Supporting Indigenous land holders 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 IMPACT

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



➤ LEGISLATIVE REFORM

After receiving independent expert advice on options to improve the sustainability and growth of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Account (Land Account), significant consultations were undertaken across Australia on two key reforms to the ILSC's legislation, the ATSI Act:

- To help secure the sustainability of the Land Account by handing its management to the Future Fund and broadening its investment mandate; and
- Extending the remit of the ILSC to include water.

Responses to the proposed reforms were overwhelmingly supportive, and a package of three Bills relating to the functions and funding of the ILSC were enacted in November 2018, and came into effect 1 February 2019.

These changes are the driver for the development of this document.

➤ ABOUT THE NATIONAL INDIGENOUS LAND AND SEA STRATEGY AND REGIONAL INDIGENOUS LAND AND SEA STRATEGIES

The National Indigenous Land and Sea Strategy (NILSS) is a requirement under the ATSI Act and is the ILSC's key policy document. The recently developed NILSS is the ILSC's first national strategy to include fresh and salt water-based activities.

This NILSS presents the ILSC's priority focus areas, program delivery mechanisms and renewed commitment to building enduring stakeholder relationships as a framework for achieving the ILSC's vision of *Indigenous people enjoying opportunities and benefits that the return of country and its management brings*.

➤ ABOUT THE RILSS

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

In this iteration of the NILSS and RILSS, the RILSS will contain more detailed information on what the ILSC's strategic direction means for Indigenous corporations. They describe how the ILSC wants to deliver its mandate to achieve economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits for Indigenous Australians over the coming years.

➤ RILSS REGIONS

In developing the previous NILS, the ILSC changed its approach to 'regions'. Previously the regions were the six states (with NSW incorporating the ACT) and the Northern Territory. The new regions, continued in these NILSS and RILSS, reflect important environmental, demographic and economic differences across the continent and the ways these are reflected in the different situations of, and opportunities for Indigenous people.

The ILSC recognises the opportunities presented through bringing together discrete, but aligned, land parcels and water interests within the Indigenous Estate to allow the development of joined-up projects, and economies of scale.

The ILSC also recognises that the new regions do not necessarily align with cultural and/or language groups, an issue which was raised during recent consultation on these strategies. These new boundaries are 'soft borders' and as such are not intended to preclude any group or project from being considered on the basis of their position in relation to a regional 'border'. The regions are a guide to the kind of projects that may be more desirable and successful in any given region – inclusive of land and waters.

The following regions will continue to underpin the RILSS:

- **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**—Includes the desert regions of Western Australia, northern South Australia, south-west Queensland and north-west New South Wales. As with the Northern Australia region, Australia's desert regions are unique. There is value in considering the opportunities arising in these areas in their own right.
- **South-West Australia**—Includes southern Australia, west from the South Australian border through to Perth and Geraldton in Western Australia. This region has diverse opportunities in agriculture, resource extraction and urban-based industries.
- **South-East Australia**—Includes southern Australia, east of Ceduna in South Australia and including all of Victoria and Tasmania, most of New South Wales and south-east Queensland including Brisbane. The mostly temperate regions of south-eastern Australia are more heavily populated and urbanised than the other regions, with more intensive and diverse agricultural operations and greater employment and training opportunities in professional and service industries.

The strategy for each of these regions highlight the alignment between opportunities arising in these regions and the ILSC's focus areas. These strategies are based on recent stakeholder consultation and, like the NILSS, will be revisited in 2020.





AUSTRALIAN DESERT REGION

Regional Indigenous Land and Sea Strategy 2019 – 2022



➤ INDIGENOUS POPULATION

This region is one of the least populated areas of Australia, though as with Northern Australia the proportion of Indigenous residents is relatively high. Approximately 58,000 Indigenous people are estimated to live in the region, with the largest population clusters around Alice Springs.

➤ INDIGENOUS-HELD LAND

This region is dominated by three types of tenure: land subject to pastoral lease, National Reserve land where activity is restricted, and Aboriginal land subject to various legislative regimes. Aboriginal land includes:

- large areas in Central Australia granted under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*
- the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) and Maralinga Tjarutja lands in northern and western South Australia
- large areas of Western Australia managed by the Aboriginal Lands Trust (ALT), under the *Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972*
- extensive determinations of exclusive possession native title (not subject to other interests) particularly in Western Australia and non-exclusive native title on pastoral lease land across South Australia, the Northern Territory and western Queensland.

➤ LANDSCAPE

The Australian Desert region covers approximately 7.5 million square kilometres and is the largest desert biome in the world. It crosses over five states and territories. As the desert region covers such a vast area, its landscapes vary quite considerably.

Topographically the region is low and flat, with isolated low mountain ranges such as the Flinders Ranges and the iconic Uluru and Kata Tjuta in the 'Red Centre'. It also encompasses the Simpson and Sandy Deserts.

The actual 'desert' areas of this region are made up of two types: sandy deserts with significant dune systems; and stony deserts, found more towards the eastern areas of the region.

The non-desert landscapes also vary quite significantly—from vast treeless grassy plains (or downs country); to hummock grasslands (spinifex), mulga woodlands and shrub lands; to saltbush and bluebush shrub lands towards the region's southern extent.

CLIMATE

The climate is arid to semi-arid, with mean annual rainfall varying greatly from 150mm to more than 250mm, but generally less than 300mm. Evaporation exceeds rainfall across much of the region. Regions with less than 300mm annual rainfall are considered unsuitable for non-pastoral agriculture. The rainfall varies significantly from summer-dominated rainfall in the north, to winter-dominated rainfall in the south. The north-western areas of the region are considered sub-tropical and can be impacted by heavy rains driving down from the north, especially after cyclones cross the coast and penetrate inland. Rainfall patterns can also vary quite significantly from year to year and area to area, with major droughts and wet periods being quite common in the region.

Temperature extremes are a characteristic of most deserts. The summers in the desert region are very hot, with mean maximums during summer between 32°C and 35°C. Overnight it commonly falls below 0°C during winter. Searing daytime heat gives way to colder nights because no insulation is provided by humidity and cloud cover.

The diverse climatic conditions across the Desert region support an array of habitats. Due to the seasonality of available water and its general scarcity, many of these habitats are ephemeral in nature. High numbers of species local to an area are also a feature of the region, particularly in the Great Sandy-Tanami Deserts, which form the habitat for the most abundant lizard communities in the world.

Case study: The Keeping Place, Western Australia

Easier access to a wealth of cultural heritage information and improved relationships between Traditional Owners and resource companies are not the only benefits from The Keeping Place project. The ILSC's support of this innovative project has helped Indigenous people to protect their culture and manage their land.

Stretching across the South-West and parts of the Desert and Northern regions, The Keeping Place Project in WA has created an online geospatial cultural heritage management system providing improved avenues for Indigenous groups to store and access their cultural information. The project is a co-funded partnership involving the ILSC; native title groups Karlka Niyaparli Aboriginal Corporation (KNAC) and Yinhawangka Aboriginal Corporation; and resources companies BHP Billiton, Fortescue Metals Group and Rio Tinto. It also has the support of the National Trust of Western Australia.

Indigenous groups now have an innovative technology solution for managing native title and related land management and development issues that also gives them meaningful access to cultural information drawn from more than 40 years of resources companies conducting heritage surveys on Niyaparli country. The Keeping Place Project puts the stories of the Niyaparli Traditional Owners told during these surveys into the hands of the people to whom they are most meaningful. KNAC had a developmental and guiding role in the technology solution and Niyaparli Traditional Owners developed the cultural protocols to be applied in the system.

The project has helped in improving relationships between Traditional Owners and resource companies and workshops have been held to determine how the technology solution could be adapted and used for the benefit of other Traditional Owner groups.

KNAC now has access to repositories of cultural and heritage information and a management system that supports them to protect significant cultural heritage sites. The innovative geospatial tool can be used to collect, store and appropriately share cultural knowledge, perform desktop assessments of heritage surveys, plan land management projects and maintain compliance with land use agreements.

A new Indigenous-owned company has been formed with KNAC as the founding member and is now making the technology available nationally. The ownership model enables other Indigenous groups to join as owner-members of the company.

WATER RESOURCES

Given the climatic conditions, surface water is rare across most of the Australian Desert region. Skirting the north western edge of the Murray-Darling Basin, the Desert region includes part of the Lake Eyre Basin, a surface water basin which reaches as far west as Alice Springs and Hermannsburg in the Northern Territory and north east as far as Winton in Queensland.

It is also part home to the Great Artesian Basin, a groundwater system that stretches from the tip of Cape York, south to Dubbo and well into the Desert region, reaching west to include Tarcoola and Coober Pedy in South Australia. The region also incorporates at least parts of state Groundwater Proclamation Areas in SA and WA, and Water Plan Areas in Queensland and the NT. NT Water Plan Areas are also subject to Strategic Aboriginal Water Reserves, wherein a percentage of water from the consumptive pool in each area is set aside for exclusive Aboriginal use.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Desert region is generally lacking in transport and other infrastructure compared to other regions, reflecting the sparse population and relatively low economic capacity of the land. The major road and rail route from Adelaide to Darwin does, however, bisect this region.

ISSUES

Rainfall variability is one of the major drivers of change in the Desert region. In different areas and at different times, other pressures contribute to change, including declining biodiversity, dry/drought years, uncontrolled fires, invasive species (weeds and feral animals) and water extraction and diversion. Notwithstanding these pressures, the region, with its characteristically varied landscapes, still contains relatively intact ecosystems and much of Australia's biodiversity.

Dealing with environmental challenges is complicated by the number of jurisdictions across the region, with their differing policies and legislative/regulatory regimes. Environmental issues, as well as water use and allocation issues, are further complicated by cross-jurisdictional agreements – namely the Great Artesian Basin Strategic Management Plan and the Lake Eyre Basin Intergovernmental Agreement.

Climate-change scenarios for Australia's deserts have predicted that climate variability and unpredictability will increase. Individual rainfall events may be larger and more frequent with longer drought periods between the rain events. There is potential for dryland salinity to increase due to the erosion caused by run-off during extreme rainfall events. Both of these issues will contribute to an increase in woody vegetation and this, coupled with changes in rainfall, will affect the frequency and intensity of fire.



➤ OPPORTUNITIES

Australia's deserts have extensive areas of Indigenous-held land and present industry opportunities.

Agribusiness

In this region Indigenous Australians hold large areas of pastoral land that may be suitable for broad-scale, low-intensity grazing of livestock. The goats, donkeys and camels running wild in many arid areas may be put to productive uses where permissible under state pest species legislation.

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 native (e.g. kangaroo) or feral animals for the wild or pet meat markets (e.g. goats, camels, state pest species legislation permitting). Investment is needed to research potential products, build markets for them, and establish Indigenous people's participation in niche-product supply chains.

Tourism

Desert Australia has many spectacular landscapes and rich Indigenous cultural connections, both a potential basis for tourism businesses—either larger scale resorts or smaller, locally-based ecotourism or cultural tourism ventures. With agribusiness, tourism is a recognised high-growth area in the Australian economy.

Renewable energies

Australia needs to transform its energy sources to meet internationally agreed emissions-reduction targets (the UN Paris Agreement) to mitigate the potential impacts of climate change.

Investing in renewable energy technologies can assist Indigenous communities in this region, particularly those who are off the electricity grid, by reducing costs and improving reliability of supply. Also, if suitable, Indigenous-held land may be used to generate solar, wind or geothermal energy for sale to energy retailers.

The area around Alice Springs, NT, has a national and international reputation for solar energy adoption and integration. Solar energy has obvious applications in hot, arid areas.

Conservation and healthy country

Many Indigenous landholders are already involved in 'caring for country' ranger activities in this region with groups receiving income from government and other organisations for these services. Many national parks in the Desert region are also co-managed by government and Indigenous owners—for example, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park in the Northern Territory, and Ikara-Flinders Ranges in South Australia. Ranger-type work presents opportunities for expansion, as increasing value is placed on rehabilitating environments through combating weeds and feral animals and preserving biodiversity.

'Carbon farming' is any change in agricultural or land management practices that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions or store additional carbon in vegetation or soils. Carbon farming is under-developed in arid areas of Australia but could be pursued, if cost-effective, through herd management and land set aside for revegetation.



Case study: Ngaanyatjarra Camel Company, tri-state region of Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory

More than a million feral camels are roaming inland Australia. They damage the environment, but at the same time have a long association with the country. The camel population on the remote Ngaanyatjarra Lands is around 200,000, and they are regarded as a resource to be managed.

Since the formation of the company in 2012, the Ngaanyatjarra Camel Company has sold for meat export more than 25,000 captured feral camels. Capacity and infrastructure to manage feral camels are rapidly being developed, including with assistance from the ILSC (a grant for infrastructure development). Permanent and mobile yards are used across the lands with access to the best available roads as the main muster points for the feral herd.

Good-quality permanent watering points have been developed at these muster points both to attract camels and to ensure they are in the best possible condition for sale or domestication. Feral camels have proven easy to work with in the yards and young camels are easy to domesticate.

The company has received many requests for live animals. Holding paddocks have been built in order to develop that market and add value to the feral herd. Young camels can be grown out to a saleable size. Currently the company's main focus is to source, develop and select premium animals for domestication as milk or meat producers.

The continent has vast areas of land suited to camel husbandry. With Australia's relatively disease-free status and wide access to export markets, these areas have potential for large-scale camel-product production for export.





➤ RELATIONSHIPS & LINKS

The ILSC always seeks to consult and partner with local and regional organisations in taking advantage of opportunities on desert country. Collaboration is a core principle underpinning ILSC projects.

Alliances are being pursued at four levels:

1. **Networks** – connecting the ILSC to interests in the wider Indigenous Estate.
2. **Communities of practice** – connecting Indigenous groups with shared interests and experiences within and across industries. This is particularly relevant in the context of the ILSC's new role in water, but is also relevant across the spectrum of activities that the ILSC can support.
3. **Partnerships** – cooperation and collaboration between the ILSC and Indigenous groups on key projects and activities.
4. **Strategic alliances** – formal arrangements involving the ILSC, key Indigenous land and water holding bodies, industry partners and/or government partners.

The ILSC will work with stakeholders to provide insights on what has worked in previous and existing projects, tailored to local aspirations and expertise.

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

Central Desert Native Title Services, WA
www.centraldesert.org.au

Central Land Council, NT
www.clc.org.au

Goldfields Land and Sea Council, WA
www.glsc.com.au

NTSCORP Ltd, NSW
www.ntscorp.com.au

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

South Australia Native Title Services, SA
www.nativetitlesa.org

Other Aboriginal organisations in this region include:

Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (Aboriginal Corporation) representing communities across the APY Lands in northern South Australia.
www.anangu.com.au

Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa (KJ) a Martu organisation established to look after Martu culture and help build sustainable Martu communities—the Martu are the Traditional Owners of the Martu native title determination, including Karlamilyi National Park, spanning three desert bioregions and 15 million hectares in remote Western Australia.
www.kj.org.au

Maralinga Tjarutja representing the Oak Valley community in far western South Australia.
www.maralingatjarutja.com

Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku based at Warburton, WA, responsible for the provision of local government services to ten communities.
<https://www.ngaanyatjaraku.wa.gov.au/index.php/our-region/community-information/warburton>

Ngaanyatjarra Council (Aboriginal Corporation) representing around 2000 Ngaanyatjarra, Pintupi and Pitjantjatjara Traditional Owners (Yarnangu) who reside in 12 member communities in remote Western Australia.
<https://www.ngaanyatjaraku.wa.gov.au/>

NPY Women's Council providing services across the remote tri-state region.
www.npywc.org.au

The Indigenous Desert Alliance (IDA) connects desert-based land managers working on Indigenous lands throughout Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory to improve cultural, environmental, economic and social outcomes.
www.indigenoussdesertalliance.com

Ninti One: Innovation for Remote Australia the Cooperative Research Centre for Remote Economic Participation, provides services across the region in the areas of research, participatory evaluation, communications, business planning and governance.
www.nintione.com.au

Desert Knowledge Australia (DKA) is a statutory corporation of the Northern Territory, established with the mandate 'to encourage and facilitate learning, research and sustainable economic and social development relating to desert and arid lands...' DKA manages the Desert Knowledge Precinct in Alice Springs, and has a mandate to create alliances across sectors and state/territory borders that will strengthen the people, communities, businesses and governments of remote Australia. Part of DKA is the **Intyalheme Centre for Future Energy**, established as a centre of excellence in renewable energies. The centre's core functions include knowledge sharing, community education and engagement, industry partnerships, and commercialisation.
www.desertknowledge.com.au

The **Centre for Appropriate Technology Limited (CfAT Ltd)**, based in Alice Springs, facilitates tailored approaches to delivering technical reliability and building local capacity to unlock economic opportunity for remote Indigenous people and communities.
cfat.org.au

APPENDIX: RELEVANT LEGISLATION

Commonwealth

- Native Title Act 1993 (Commonwealth)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 (Commonwealth)
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)
- Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (Commonwealth)
- Water Act 2007
- National Water Initiative - agreed in 2004 by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), is the national blueprint for water reform
- Lake Eyre Basin Intergovernmental Agreement Act 2001
- Great Artesian Basin Strategic Management Plan 2018-2033

Northern Territory

- Aboriginal Land Act 1978 (Northern Territory)
- Heritage Act 2011 (Northern Territory)
- Mineral Titles Act 2010 (Northern Territory)
- Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989 (Northern Territory)
- Parks and Reserves (Framework for the Future) Act 2004 and Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 2005 (Northern Territory)
- Pastoral Land Act 1992 (Northern Territory)
- Petroleum Act and Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act (Northern Territory)
- Validation (Native Title) Act 1994 and Validation of Titles and Actions Amendment Act 1998 (Northern Territory)
- NT of Australia Water Act 1992
- Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act
- Waterways Conservation Act 1976
- Water Agencies (Powers) Act 1984

Western Australia

- Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972 (WA)
- Aboriginal Communities Act 1979 (WA)
- Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (WA)
- Aboriginal Heritage (Marandoo) Act 1992 (WA)
- Land Administration Act 1997 (WA)
- Titles (Validation) and Native Title (Effect of Past Acts) Act 1995 (WA)
- Water Services Act 2012
- Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947
- Land Drainage Act 1925
- Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914
- Waterways Conservation Act 1976
- Land Drainage (Validation) Act 1996
- National Environment Protection Council (WA) Act 1996
- Water Agencies (Powers) Act 1984
- Water Corporation Act 1995

South Australia

- Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988 (SA)
- Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee Act 2003 (SA)
- Aboriginal Lands Trust Act 1966 (SA)
- Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act 1981 (SA)
- Maralinga Tjarutja Land Rights Act 1984 (SA)
- Native Title (South Australia) Act 1994 and Native Title (South Australia) (Validation and Confirmation) Amendment Act 2000 (SA)
- Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989 (SA)
- Natural Resource Management Act 2004
- Natural Resource Management (General) Regulations 2005 - SA
- South Australian Water Corporation Act 1994
- Water Resources Act 1997

Queensland

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Holding Act 2013
- Aboriginal Land Act 1991 and Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991
- Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007
- Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995
- Land Act 1994 (Queensland)
- Local Government (Aboriginal Lands) Act 1978
- Native Title (Queensland) Act 1993
- Nature Conservation Act 1992
- Wild Rivers Act 2005
- Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2009
- Environmental Protection Act 1994
- Queensland Water Quality Guidelines
- Healthy Waters Management Plans
- Water Act 2000
- Water Regulation 2016

New South Wales

- Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983
- Heritage Act 1977
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
- Native Title Act 1994
- Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995
- Water (NSW) Act 2014
- Water Management Act 2000
- Water Act 1912
- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
- Dams Safety Act 1978
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- Local Government Act 1993
- Natural Resources Commission Act 2003
- Pipelines Act 1967
- Public Works Act 1912





THE INDIGENOUS ESTATE

The Indigenous Estate holds the key to successful economic development for all Indigenous Australians. Its significant tangible and intangible assets—not just land and waters, but people and the knowledge and intellectual property flowing from the heritage of Indigenous Australians—must be used for the benefit of all Indigenous Australians. The Indigenous Estate is the focus of the ILSC's efforts.



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