



Australian Government

Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation




The ILSC GROUP

PEOPLE. COUNTRY. OPPORTUNITY.

Welcome to the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation

**Connecting People,
Country and Opportunity**

A woman with dark, curly hair, wearing a white t-shirt with a subtle pattern, stands in a field of tall, thin grass. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

In all our activities the ILSC pays respect to the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands and waters on which we work.

We honour the resilience and continuing connection to country, culture and community of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across Australia.

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

Front Cover: Pictured: Port Smith, Karajarri country, Kimberley, Western Australia

Pictured: Mabel Fitzpatrick (left) and Kerrie Parker (right), Nari Nari Elders

Photo Credit: Annette Ruzicka and The Nature Conservancy



A man wearing a green cap with a logo, sunglasses, a khaki short-sleeved shirt with patches, and bright yellow high-visibility pants is planting a small sapling in a field of tall, dry grass. He is wearing white gloves and holding a red bucket. The background shows more trees and vegetation.

Our vision

Welcome to the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation, where we are 'unlocking the Indigenous Estate' so Indigenous people enjoy the rightful entitlements, opportunities and benefits that the return of country and its management brings.



What we do and why

The Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC) was established in 1995 to provide for the contemporary and future land needs of Indigenous Australians, particularly those unlikely to benefit from Native Title or Land Rights.

As the custodian of funds held in trust for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, we assist Indigenous Australians to acquire and manage land and water-related rights so that they can enjoy the rightful entitlements, opportunities and benefits that the return and management of country brings.

In redressing dispossession, the ILSC's acquisition and management functions serve to assist Indigenous Australians to:

1. Maintain and grow the value and productivity of country;
2. Own and manage country sustainably;
3. Influence policy and opportunity for country; and
4. Strengthen culture through re-connection to country.

Pictured: Tiwi Island Ranger conducting early season fire management to protect country

Our purpose

The purpose of the ILSC is to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to acquire and manage land, water and water-related interests so as to provide economic, environmental, social or cultural benefits.

To achieve our purpose, the focus of the ILSC's efforts is to 'unlock and grow the Indigenous Estate' in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Indigenous Estate refers to land under the care and control of Indigenous Australians, alongside the fresh and saltwater country over which there are recognised Indigenous interests.

Less tangibly, it refers to the cultural assets, cultural knowledge and intellectual property collectively held by Indigenous Australians and associated with their country.

Through our key activities we work towards achieving our purpose:

- Purchasing and returning land and water-related rights and assets to Indigenous Australians.
- Supporting Indigenous Australians to preserve and protect cultural and environmental sites and traditional knowledge through reconnection with country.
- Assisting Indigenous Australians to build their capacity and capability to sustainably manage and protect country.
- Partnering with Indigenous Australians to drive and influence opportunities for their country.

Our legislation and governance

The ILSC is a corporate Commonwealth entity under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act) which first commenced as the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) on 1 June 1995. It was established by the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (ATSIA Act) in response to the Mabo judgement (1992) and as such complements the *Native Title Act 1993* in the recognition of common law native title rights to land.

Sitting within the portfolio of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C), the ILSC contributes to the achievement of the Australian Government's priorities in Indigenous Affairs and is accountable to the Parliament through the Minister for Indigenous Australians.

The ILSC's primary decision-making body is its seven-member Board appointed by the Minister. Five members including the Chair must be Indigenous Australians.

Pictured: Wild harvesting of Kakadu Plum (Gubinge) in the Northern Territory





Pictured: Tim Mallard,
Indigenous trainee on
Roebuck Plains Station,
Western Australia

Photo Credit: ABC Kimberley

Our Country. Our Future.

Central to achieving our vision and purpose is the ILSC's national funding program '*Our Country. Our Future*', which operates across urban, regional and remote Australia.

The ILSC assists with eligible projects in four key ways:

- Providing funding for the return, development or management of country;
- Providing advice and capability support for Indigenous owners of land or water-related country through information, training and systems;
- Connecting Indigenous Australians with opportunities through advocacy, networking and facilitating market access; and
- Supporting success by facilitating capability, operating and investment partnerships.

Our national funding program, '*Our Country. Our Future*' has five broad focus areas to support opportunities for Indigenous Australians to enjoy the benefits that the return of country and its management brings.

Key focus areas



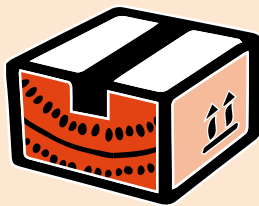
Conservation and Healthy Country

Supporting cultural and environmental protection and the development of enterprises based on the preservation of country.



Urban Investment

Pursuing strategic land purchases in urban areas or providing management support to enhance commercial, social and cultural uses for Indigenous urban assets.



Niche Indigenous Products

Assisting to build industries based on Australian native food and agriculture and leveraging traditional practices and cultural knowledge to grow consumer interest.



Tourism

Supporting the development of land, salt and freshwater country based eco-tourism operations.



Agribusiness

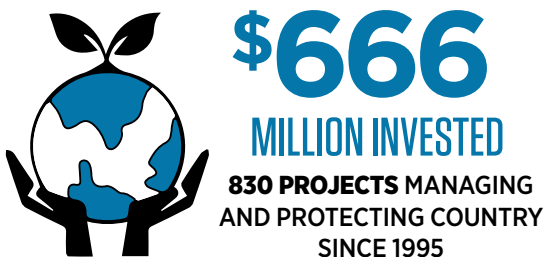
Supporting enterprises in key sectors including aquaculture, horticulture and livestock industries.

Our achievements

Since the ILSC was established in 1995, we have facilitated and partnered with Indigenous corporations and people across Australia. We have supported Indigenous Australians to bring products to market including cultural and ecotourism experiences, niche Indigenous products such as bush foods and culturally led eco-system services.

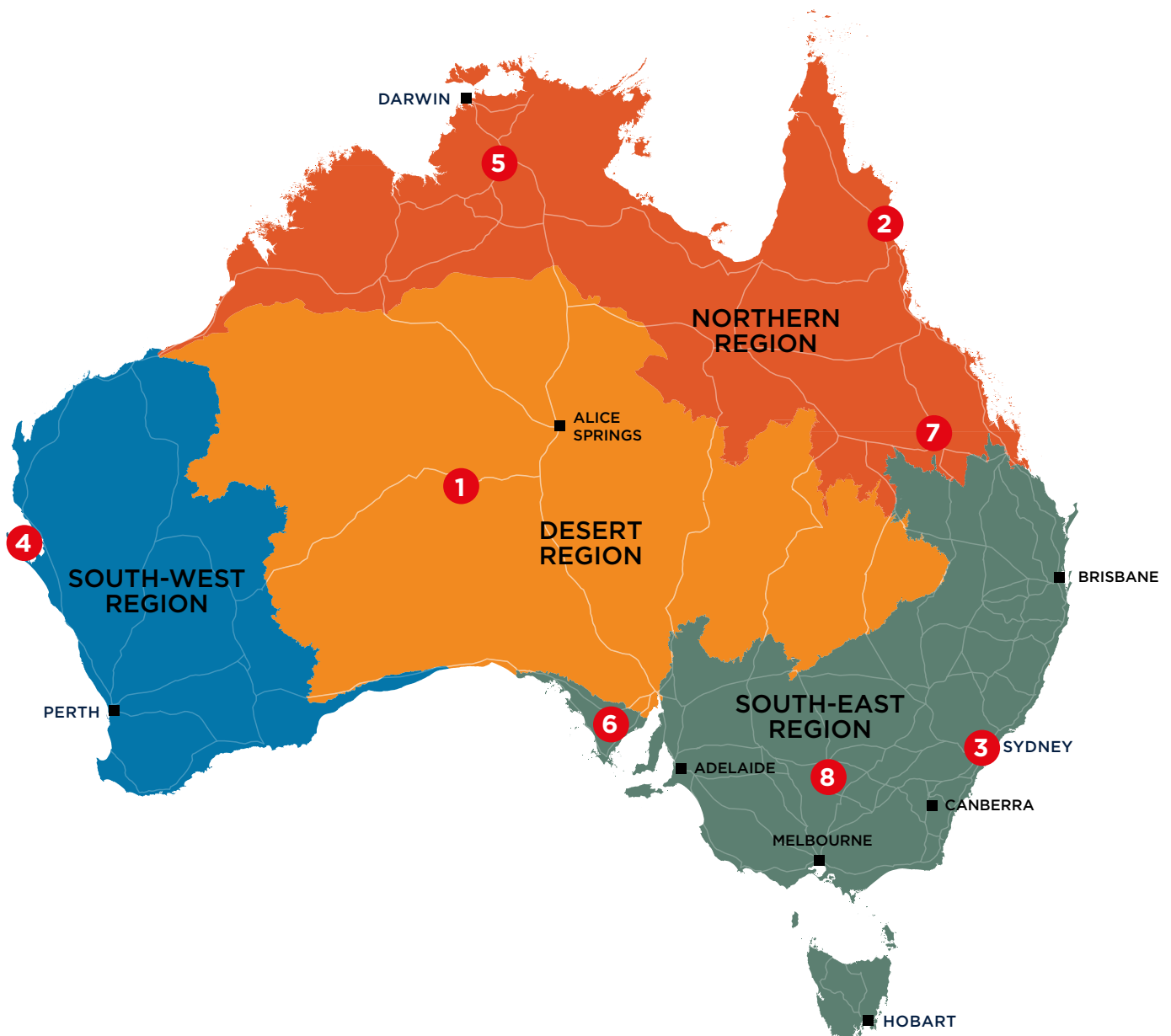
Through Indigenous led ventures and the protection of culturally significant country, we have assisted Indigenous Australians to strengthen and leverage their knowledge and culture. Since 2015, ILSC partnerships have enabled more than 650 employment opportunities for Indigenous Australians, as well as providing hands-on training experience.

Here are some highlights of our achievements in partnering with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people:



Our strategies

Our National and Regional Indigenous Land and Sea Strategies (NILSS and RILSS) have been developed in consultation with Indigenous corporations and individuals to guide the performance and functions of the ILSC. Our four regional strategies include: northern, desert, south-west and south-east Australia as shown on the map below:



Sampling of ILSC Group subsidiaries and *Case Studies

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| ① Ayers Rock Resort (Operated By Voyages) | ⑤ Savanna Fire Management Program* |
| ② Mossman Gorge Centre (Operated By Voyages) | ⑥ Wanna Mar* |
| ③ National Centre Of Indigenous Excellence (NCIE) | ⑦ Gracevale 'Turraburra' Station* |
| ④ Tidal Moon* | ⑧ Gayini (Nimmie Caira)* |

The following case studies provide an insight into how we work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to deliver positive outcomes.

Tidal Moon, Denham, Western Australia

Tidal Moon looks to resurrect centuries-old sea cucumber trade

A \$92,000 ILSC investment in October 2019 kickstarted an Indigenous-owned wild sea cucumber harvesting business on Western Australia's Coral Coast.

Sea cucumbers were once traded between Indonesian sailors and Indigenous Australians from the Kimberley and Arnhem Land regions and Tidal Moon Pty Ltd is seeking to resurrect this trade route in collaboration with local Aboriginal communities.

Tidal Moon is providing some of the necessary start-up operating equipment to establish a dried sea cucumber onshore processing facility based at Denham, Western Australia.

The business will initially supply the domestic market before expanding to lucrative markets in Asia, where sea cucumbers are considered a delicacy.

Tidal Moon is keen to see traditional knowledge passed from one generation to the next in support of social and cultural wellbeing and will train and employ local Indigenous people.

Pictured: Tidal Moon Boat mooring in WA
Photo Credit: Michael Wear





"Australia's first known export was the trade of sea cucumbers and our goal is to preserve and enhance our heritage while creating a business that will last for years to come."

Michael Wear
Mulgana Traditional Owner and Tidal Moon Managing Director

Savanna Fire Management Program, Northern Territory

**Savanna Fire Management project continues to
create opportunities for Aboriginal people**

The \$34 million Savanna Fire Management (SFM) program has been operating across the top end of the Northern Territory since 2017.

The SFM program is managed by the ILSC and funded by the INPEX-operated Ichthys LNG.

The program focuses on early burning fire management practices by Indigenous groups, protecting savanna country from damaging wildfires, and supporting the growth of carbon farming initiatives.

The program, which will run for up to 18 years, provides long-term support to Indigenous landowners, establishing sustainable enterprises on country.

Since 2017, the SFM program has engaged more than 250 Traditional Owners to assist with new project development.

A new carbon abatement project scheduled to start in 2021, is a collaboration between Thamarrurr Rangers, Asyrikarrak Kirim Rangers, and Wudicupildiyer Rangers.

This project will add over 1.2 million hectares of Indigenous land being supported by the SFM program in the Northern Territory.

As well as providing carbon offsets, the SFM program is creating opportunities for Aboriginal people to establish land management businesses, create jobs, facilitate cultural practices and care for their country.

Pictured: Uriah Crocombe, Thamarrurr Ranger on country
Photo Credit: ABC Rural: Jon Daly





"We're creating more jobs for other outstations, communities and getting more rangers to work on country and get out bush."

Uriah Crocombe
Thamarrurr Ranger

Wanna Mar, Port Lincoln, South Australia

ILSC supports Wanna Mar investment in the Southern Bluefin Tuna industry

A \$3.5 million investment by the ILSC has contributed to the establishment of a new Indigenous-owned commercial fishing enterprise, a first of its kind in the area.

Funds from the ILSC have enabled the Wanna Mar group to acquire 25 tonnes of Southern Bluefin Tuna quota and launch a 50-50 joint venture with Stehr Group, one of Australia's largest tuna producers.

Wanna Mar, a term meaning 'Food of the Sea' in Wirangu and Mirning languages, is supported by the Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation, an organisation representing the interests of Native Title holders of the region.

The opportunity to acquire water-related rights in an industry where there are low levels of Indigenous participation nationally will see strong revenue streams flow back to Native Title holders.

The \$7.45 million joint venture, where the ILSC funds combined with \$200,000 capital investment by Native Title holders and \$3.7 million Stehr Group capital and assets, is an example of how ILSC funds and expertise can be leveraged to attract private capital for the benefit of Indigenous Australians.

**Pictured: Paul Vandenberg heading out to sea
from Port Lincoln, SA**
Photo Credit: Mark Piovesan





“Indigenous people are under-represented in the commercial fishing and aquaculture industries across Australia. We can bring an Indigenous flavour to the Australian market, telling our story about our sea country and what we’ve been doing for thousands of years.”

Paul Vandenbergh
Wanna Mar Group Director, Wirangu man and
member of the Far West Coast Aboriginal Community

Gracevale 'Turraburra' Station, Central Queensland

Iningai people protect and preserve country for future generations

In 2018, the Yambangku Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Tourism Development Aboriginal Corporation (YACHATDAC) approached the ILSC for assistance to protect valuable cultural heritage on Gracevale Station, a 8,870-hectare cattle property near Aramac in Queensland.

The Iningai Traditional Custodians had limited access to the property and significant cultural sites, including a 200 metre rock art wall that had not been formally recorded or studied.

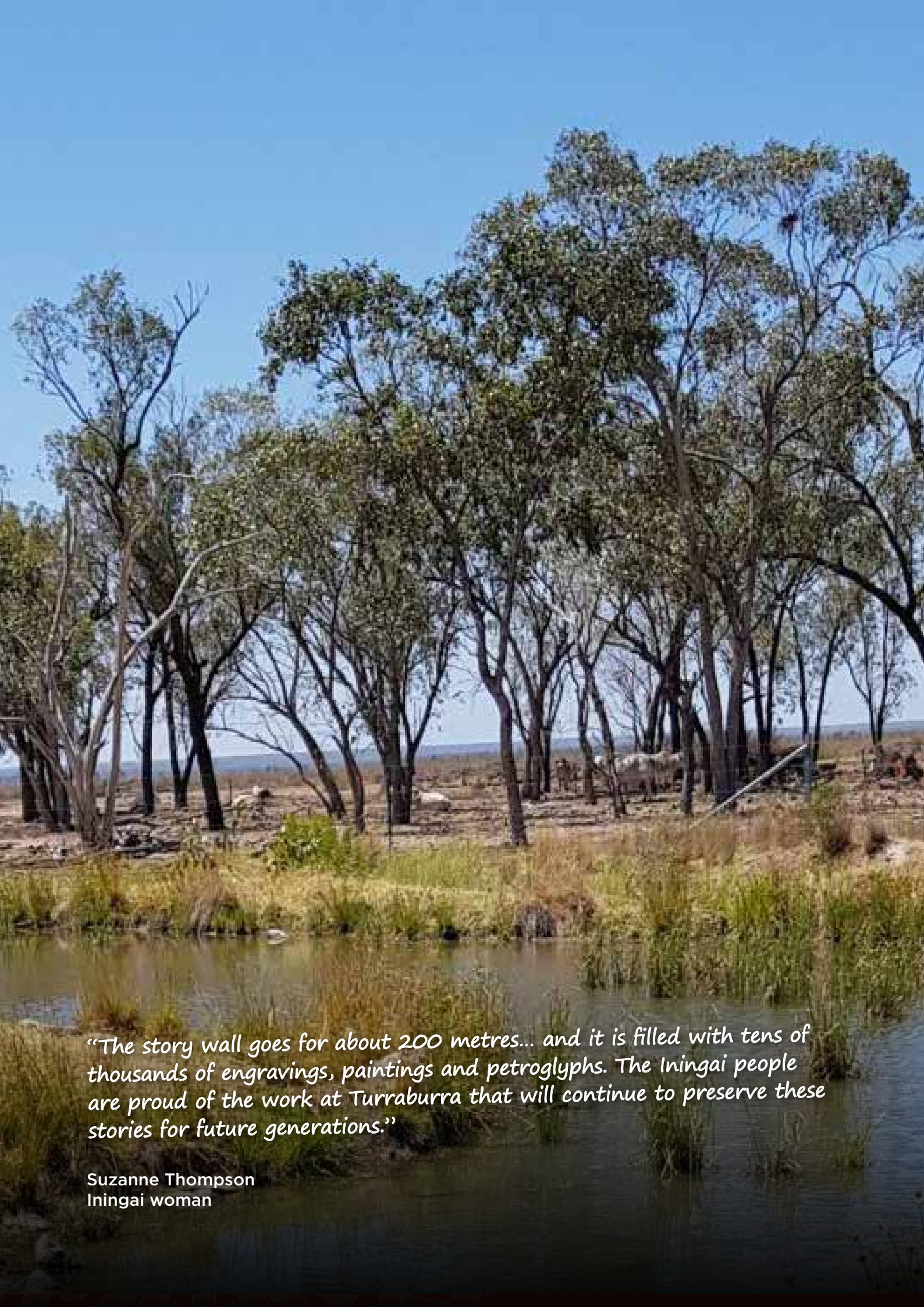
In April 2019, the ILSC purchased Gracevale Station to support the Iningai Traditional Custodians to reconnect to their country and pursue opportunities to develop tourism and other socio-economic, cultural and environmental benefits for local Aboriginal people.

Since that time, the Iningai people have restored cleared land, excavated disused waterways and reduced cattle numbers on the property to protect culturally and environmentally significant country.

In October 2020, the Iningai people reopened the rock art gallery to visitors and renamed the property to 'Turraburra' which reflects the traditional name of the area.



Pictured: Gracevale 'Turraburra' Station waterways



"The story wall goes for about 200 metres... and it is filled with tens of thousands of engravings, paintings and petroglyphs. The Iningai people are proud of the work at Turraburra that will continue to preserve these stories for future generations."

Suzanne Thompson
Iningai woman

Gayini (Nimmie Caira), Hay, New South Wales

Nari Nari people build property portfolio and environmental sustainability

The traditional home of the Nari Nari people, Gayini (Nimmie Caira) is an environmentally and culturally significant property on the Murrumbidgee floodplains in NSW.

Since 2018 Gayini has been the focus of an ambitious and collaborative wetlands restoration program. There has also been over 2,000 sites of cultural significance recorded on the property.

A successful partnership between the ILSC, the Nari Nari Tribal Council (NNTC) and The Nature Conservancy (Australia) with support from the John B Foundation, resulted in the official return of country to the NNTC in March 2020.

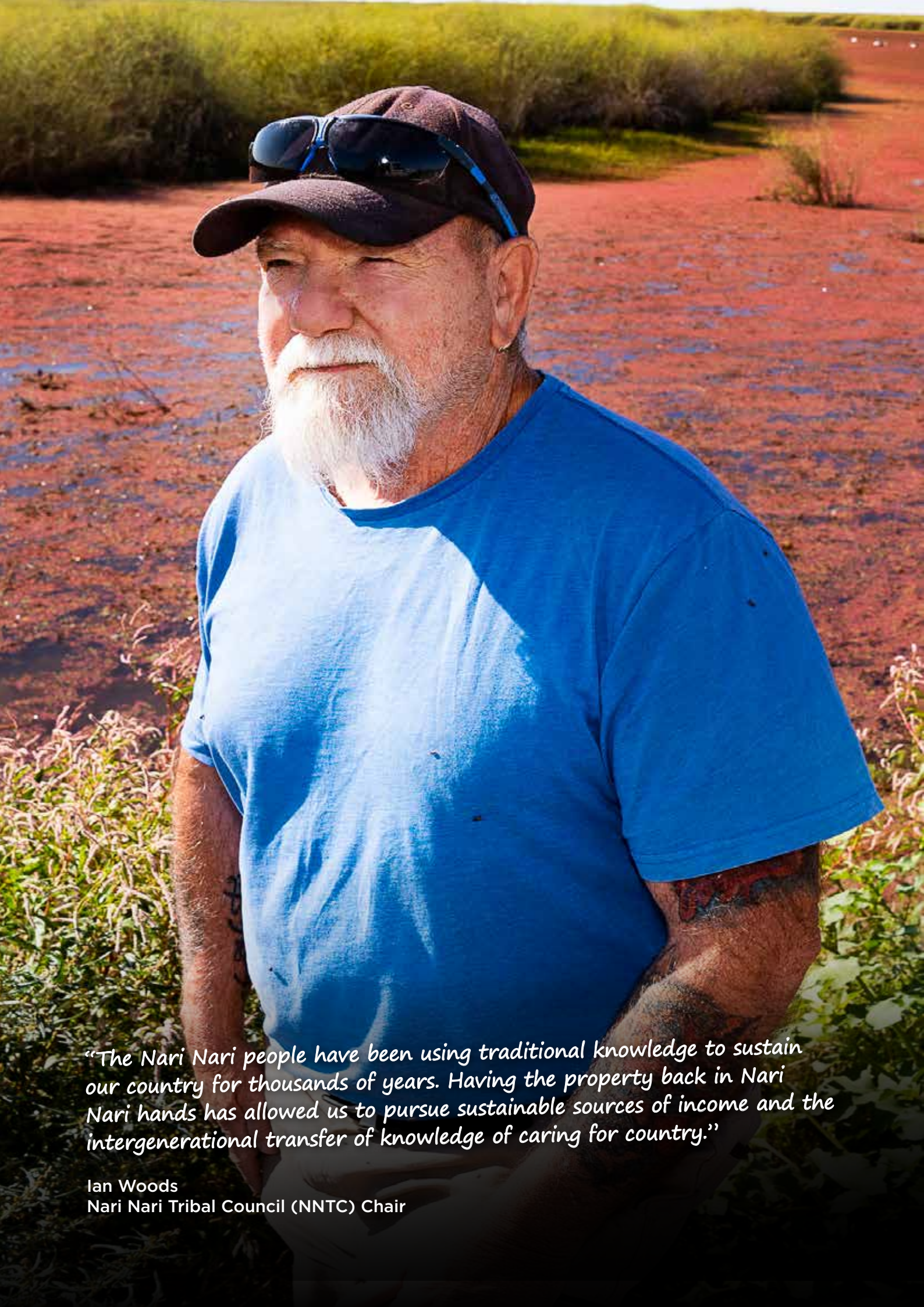
Nari Nari access and reconnection with country has enabled the transfer of knowledge between generations and the development of new enterprises, with benefits flowing to the local Indigenous community.

A further \$1.2 million of ILSC funding has assisted the NNTC to purchase vital land and water management equipment, removing the ongoing financial burden of costly equipment and contractor hire, and providing improved employment and training opportunities for local Aboriginal people.

**Pictured: Ian Woods, Chairman of the Nari Nari Tribal
Council at Gayini in NSW**

Photo Credit: Annette Ruzicka and The Nature Conservancy





“The Nari Nari people have been using traditional knowledge to sustain our country for thousands of years. Having the property back in Nari Nari hands has allowed us to pursue sustainable sources of income and the intergenerational transfer of knowledge of caring for country.”

Ian Woods
Nari Nari Tribal Council (NNTC) Chair



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CORPORATE



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SUBSIDIARIES



VOYAGES
INDIGENOUS TOURISM AUSTRALIA



NATIONAL CENTRE OF
INDIGENOUS EXCELLENCE



**Primary
Partners**

The ILSC Group Structure

The ILSC operates three wholly owned subsidiary businesses. These businesses operate across sectors including tourism, social enterprise and agribusiness. Through our subsidiaries the ILSC is able to build the operating success of assets in preparation for future Indigenous ownership. Subsidiaries also support Indigenous asset owners to maximise benefits and opportunities from the ownership and management of their country. This provides direct support to Indigenous training, employment and enterprise outcomes.

Currently, three wholly-owned subsidiary companies form the ILSC Group:

- > Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia Pty Ltd (Voyages)
- > National Centre of Indigenous Excellence Ltd (NCIE)
- > Primary Partners Pty Ltd



Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia

Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia Pty Ltd (Voyages) manages some of Australia's most iconic tourist destinations on behalf of the ILSC including Mossman Gorge Centre in north Queensland and Ayers Rock Resort at Uluru in the Northern Territory. Through its world renown tourism operations, Voyages can build and support its Indigenous staff through first-class training, employment and economic development.

National Centre of Indigenous Excellence (NCIE)

Developed by the ILSC and based in Redfern, Sydney, the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence is a social enterprise that delivers life-changing programs to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, both locally and nationally. With a strong focus on the long-term wellbeing of young people, the NCIE provides opportunities to enhance skills through education, training and development.



Primary Partners Pty Ltd

Primary Partners serves as an employment vehicle in the operation and management of ILSC owned or operated pastoral properties and businesses. Primary Partners works to build and sustain an Indigenous workforce in agribusiness by providing training and employment opportunities and maximising the productivity of Indigenous-held land.

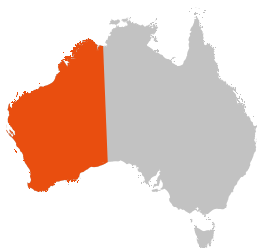


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