



NATIONAL INDIGENOUS LAND AND SEA STRATEGY

Welcome

We invite you to join us
in a conversation about your
ideas for Country

When we say '*Country*', we mean everything under the care and control of Indigenous Australians – land, fresh- and salt-water, animals and plants, places, landscapes, cultural connections and cultural knowledge, stories, songs, traditions, intellectual property etc. We have also been using the term 'Indigenous Estate'.



Welcome

We are here to support the return and management of Country and to deliver positive changes for Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders, communities and corporations. Our funding is for projects and activities that create outcomes which are valued by the owners and managers of Country.

Legally recognised Indigenous rights now exist across more than half of Australia's land mass. Consistent with global trends, there is a growing awareness and valuing of Indigenous ways and knowing in managing country, and a greater desire to see that these generate national and global benefits.

Over the last 25 years we have used our funding to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities to reclaim and manage their Country, returning 6.4 million hectares of Country and funding nearly 1,000 management projects.

Since the ILSC was established the political and social landscape of Australia has changed. It is important that we change too, to make sure that we keep pace with the evolving aspirations and needs that Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders have for Country.

A new Board in 2022 brings to the ILSC a fresh and diverse set of ideas, skills, expertise, and connections. It gives us an opportunity to strengthen our relationship with you and your community.

We want to drive action, policy and change that amplifies the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. To do this, we seek your views to shape our strategy.

We are undertaking our largest engagement effort to date, taking place over 12 weeks with more than 40 public meetings across the nation to inform our strategy. The National Indigenous Land and Sea Strategy (NILSS) guides what we do and how we do it, in partnership with you.

We encourage you to come along and have your say and to help shape our work through the new National Indigenous Land and Sea Strategy 2022-2027.



I look forward to hearing your ideas and views.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joe Morrison'.

Joe Morrison
ILSC Group CEO



Australian Government

Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation



The ILSC GROUP



NATIONAL
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PEOPLE. COUNTRY. OPPORTUNITY.

Who We Are and What We Do

The Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) was established in 1995 to address the historic dispossession of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by buying and granting land to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporations and funding land management activities on Indigenous held land. In 2019, the ILC became the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC) after legislative changes recognised the link between land and water country and added the return and management of fresh and saltwater country to our role.

Visit www.ilsc.gov.au for examples of how the ILSC has been returning land and water to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations and supporting management activities on Country.

Adapting to change

Since 1995, much has changed and the ILSC needs to work out how to best adapt to these changes – turning challenges into opportunities. We have asked Indigenous experts and practitioners to explore some key trends and provide ideas on the role the ILSC could play covering:

- **Increasing recognition of Indigenous Rights over Country**

Indigenous rights over Country are legally recognised over more than 57% of Australia's land mass (**ABARES 2020**) and have emerged from Native Title and other Land Rights legislation. These 'land rights' have not made right all the impacts from colonisation – not everyone has got land back, and those that have, haven't had economic or social benefits delivered.

- **Increasing access to global capital markets**

This increased access is enabling Indigenous enterprises to secure investments and realise aspirations. Opportunities rely on the ability of projects to meet the needs of investors. Key challenges involve having sufficiently developed projects and demonstrating the ability to deliver on projects. Indigenous business and project development capability and capacity is still growing with more work required to realise this potential.

- **Climate change**

This global challenge driving change across the country requires strategies to enable Indigenous people to mitigate and adapt to the cultural, social, and environmental pressures while taking advantage of opportunities like the carbon economy and building resilience in Country.

- **Growing economic opportunity from Traditional Knowledge**

This relies on Indigenous people controlling and retaining ownership of their cultural and intellectual property. A national protocol, such as the True Tracks® framework, could provide a critical tool to achieving Indigenous control, ensuring that investment and income goes to Indigenous-owned enterprises.

- **Expanding trade and export**

An Indigenous trade-led strategy will yield commercial benefits for Indigenous interests and advance the Australian national interest. Supporting strong Indigenous opportunities in export, trade and investment will involve protecting Indigenous Knowledge; commercialisation on agreed terms; directing investment flows to Indigenous-owned enterprises; supporting Indigenous small and medium-sized enterprises as exporters; Free Trade Agreements that advance national interests, and development of Indigenous Australian enterprises and industry.

*To explore these areas in more detail
please access the Discussion papers at:*

www.ilsc.gov.au



Working With You, For You - Our Key Questions

To better deliver on what you want from and for Country, we want to understand what we could do over the next five years. Answering these questions will help us.

We're here to listen...

Thinking about your aspirations for your Country over the next 5 years...

1. Do you need to own additional land or water to achieve your aspirations?
2. What opportunities do you see for your Country?
3. How can the ILSC help you realise these opportunities and aspirations?
4. What do you feel are the greatest threats to your Country or land and water holdings? (e.g. climate change impacts, heritage matters, invasive species, access to water)
5. What would help address these threats to your Country or land and water holdings?

Your answers to these questions will be central to the development of the National Indigenous Land and Sea Strategy supporting opportunities for Country in 2022-2027. A feedback report summarising what we have heard from you and how we will use this important information will be available on our website.

Starting the Conversation

Whether you aspire to own Country or seek support in its management, we want to hear your views and to learn how we can best partner with you to provide benefits to your community.

We have developed a set of materials across a variety of key sectors, with brief factsheets identifying challenges and opportunities and longer discussion papers providing more detailed and diverse views.

The information is not intended to be comprehensive and may not represent the views of the ILSC.

Further information on the ILSC and projects we have supported is available on the ILSC website.

Possible areas of Interest:
 Agribusiness, Aquaculture, Bushfoods, Carbon, Caring for Country, Fisheries, Niche Indigenous Products, Renewables, Tourism, Urban Investment, Water



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Join The Conversation



Come along to one of our face-to-face sessions or join an online session. Visit our website to book in.



Complete the on line survey.



Phone us on 1800 818 490 for a confidential chat.



Email your submissions to NILSS@ilsc.gov.au to share your thoughts.



Get your full Information Pack: visit www.ilsc.gov.au, or email NILSS@ilsc.gov.au.



A feedback report summarising what we have heard from you and how we will use this important information will be available on the website.



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