



Australian Government

Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation



The ILSC GROUP

PEOPLE. COUNTRY. OPPORTUNITY.

SOUTH EAST AUSTRALIA

Regional Indigenous Land and Sea Strategy 2019 – 2023



ILSC: by the Numbers

LAND MANAGEMENT AND ACQUISITION PROJECTS



By the ILSC in the
Indigenous Estate
since 1996



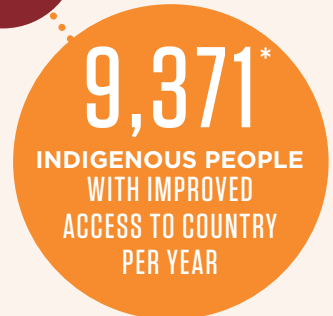
For the
Indigenous Estate
including 4 water-based interests**



PROPERTIES DIVESTED



Held by
Indigenous
groups



Enabled every year
through property
acquisition*



Economic
opportunities
enabled



Supported by 570
project partners
(third party)**

*Average per year since 2011-21

**Total 1996-2021



➤ MESSAGE FROM THE ILSC CHAIRPERSON

Welcome to the Regional Indigenous Land and Sea Strategy (RILSS) for the South East Australia region.

Our RILSS represents a more detailed, regionally focused approach to how we will support the return and management of Country to deliver positive changes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, communities, and corporations. It is an extension of our National Indigenous Land and Sea Strategy (NILSS), which provides the overarching, national direction for what we do and how we do it in partnership with you.

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 brought a fresh and diverse set of ideas, skills, expertise, and connections to the ILSC. It gave us an opportunity to strengthen our relationship with you and your community.

From May to August 2022, we undertook our largest ever engagement process to explore the aspirations and needs of people have for Country and to inform the development of a new NILSS. We visited 44 locations across Australia, held 2 online sessions, spoke with over 440 people, and received 258 survey responses.

Our national engagement ended on the 26th of August. We are now undertaking the incredibly important task of exploring what was shared with us and thinking about how we respond to meet your needs.

A new NILSS will be released in 2023 and soon after we will commence regional consultation to develop a new RILSS. For this reason, we have decided to extend the current RILSS until the end of 2023. We want to ensure the RILSS is contemporary, informed by your views and aligned with the NILSS. At the end of 2023, and following the release of a the new NILSS, we will release fully a revised RILSS.

I encourage you to join us in 2023 to have your say on the RILSS, shape our work and let us know what is important to you, your region and your Country.

Ian Hamm, ILSC Chairperson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Hamm', written in a cursive style.

➤ 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 NILSS released in 2019 was 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 NILSS, 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 2023.



SOUTH EAST AUSTRALIA REGION

Regional Indigenous Land and Sea Strategy 2019 – 2023



➤ INDIGENOUS POPULATION

This region has the largest estimated population of Indigenous Australians of all the ILSC 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.

➤ 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.

➤ LANDSCAPE

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, high-altitude 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

Of the four RILSS regions, 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.

➤ MURRAY-DARLING BASIN

The South-East region is home to the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB), which covers more than one million square kilometres across Queensland, NSW, Victoria the ACT and SA. This important Basin:

- Is home to more than 2.6 million people
- Produces \$22 billion worth of food and fibre every year
- Has \$8 billion spent on tourism every year
- Includes vital environmental assets and species, including 46 native fish species, 120 waterbird species and 16 internationally recognised wetlands

Because of its importance and its cross-jurisdictional nature, the Murray-Darling Basin Plan (Basin Plan) was developed under the *Water Act 2007* (Clth) in agreement with the 'Basin States'. The Basin Plan is a coordinated approach to water management across the Murray-Darling Basin's four states (South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland) and the Australian Capital Territory. Under the Basin Plan, each jurisdiction is responsible for the management of their parts of the Basin.



Case study: Ngarrindjeri Kuti Project

For millennia, pipis have been a staple in the diets of Ngarrindjeri people in the culturally and environmentally significant Coorong and Lower Lakes south of Adelaide, South Australia.

Known as kuti to the Ngarrindjeri, the shellfish has long been considered as bait by non-Indigenous Australians but is now finding its way onto restaurant plates and into higher-value markets for human consumption.

The Ngarrindjeri Pipi Enterprise, Kuti Co, has been established with ILSC funding of \$5 million from the Our Country Our Future program to purchase a fishing licence and pipi quota in the fishery on their Traditional Lands.

The enterprise also has bought shares in Goolwa Pipi Co to gain access to markets throughout Australia and, to service these markets, will harvest pipis from the beaches of the Coorong near the Murray Mouth which sit within the Ngarrindjeri Native Title Determination.

Kuti Co is forecast to create 19 full time jobs in the harvesting and processing of the Ngarrindjeri-owned quota and generate annual revenue of up to \$1.2 million when in full production.

The business involves the management and care of country while providing economic benefits to Ngarrindjeri people and aligning well with both the Ngarrindjeri vision and goals for country and the ILSC's mandate.

➤ 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 ecology. 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.

Water resources

The areas of south-east Queensland that are included in the South-East RILSS region form parts of both the Murray-Darling Basin and the Great Artesian Basin. Relatively high rainfall near the coast means that surface water is available for intensive agriculture and horticulture.

➤ NEW SOUTH WALES (INCL. ACT)

Landscape

New South Wales (NSW) has a wide 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 NSW is generally mild in 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.

Water resources

Much of NSW is part of the Murray-Darling Basin, with highly regulated surface and ground water systems. The regulation and management of water within the Basin for consumptive use, environmental flows and Indigenous cultural use/flows continues to raise both issues and opportunities for Indigenous people and communities in NSW. The Great Artesian Basin is also a feature of the border region in the north of the state.

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. 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 during other seasons.

Water resources

With its rugged topography and high levels of rainfall, Tasmania has a great number of rivers, with several of the largest having been dammed to provide hydroelectricity. Many rivers begin in the Central Highlands and flow out to the coast. A range of fisheries and aquaculture (mainly salmon and oysters) are a feature of the Tasmanian coastline.

VICTORIA

Landscape

The landscapes in Victoria vary greatly from plains, extinct 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.

Water resources

The Murray forms most of the border between Victoria and NSW and provides water for irrigated agriculture and horticulture as it flows towards the junction with the Darling and on into South Australia.

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 south-east coast.

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 Mediterranean-type 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.

Case study: Kings Run, Tasmania

In August 2016 the Board approved funds to contribute to the acquisition of this 338-hectare property by the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania (ALCT); other contributors were the Bob Brown Foundation and Tasmanian Land Conservancy.

The property lies on the north-west coast of Tasmania near the coastal town of Arthur River, the northern entry to the Tarkine wilderness area. It is bordered by the Arthur Pieman Conservation Area and is within the National Heritage-listed Western Tasmania Aboriginal Cultural Landscape. There are ten confirmed cultural sites on Kings Run and a further 22 on the immediate coastal reserve. The property also contains habitat for several threatened species, including the Tasmanian devil and orange-bellied parrot.

The ALCT's initial aspirations for the property focus on protecting its cultural and environmental values and undertaking cultural and social activities. In the past, cultural sites have suffered damage from 4WD activity; the ALCT's longer term plans include establishment of a new wildlife and/or cultural tour operation that would provide economic opportunities for Palawa people. Property management has been delegated to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre which oversees a number of ALCT-held properties including the Preminghana Indigenous Protected Area, located 15 kilometres from Kings Run.

This acquisition has enabled around 450 Indigenous people to access what had previously been private property and reconnect with their land and cultural heritage.



Water resources

The River Murray is South Australia's key fresh water source, with the final reaches of the river running through the Riverland and down to the Lower Lakes and the Coorong, including the Murray Mouth itself. The Murray provides for irrigated agriculture and horticulture, as well as consumptive water for Adelaide when dry conditions require it. Along the coast fishing and aquaculture, as well as tourism ventures such as whale watching are common.

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.

OPPORTUNITIES

The diversity and relative wealth of this region presents many Indigenous economic-development opportunities.

Urban development

Given that the majority of the Indigenous population live in cities and towns and many inner metropolitan areas (e.g. Redfern, Fitzroy) have a rich Indigenous history, the ILSC is looking to strengthen the Indigenous presence in urban areas.

The ILSC'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. The ILSC 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 ILSC 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: Hare Street, Echuca

Aboriginal people in Victoria's Murray River region will benefit from improved access to social services as a result of a land purchase and handover of property at Echuca.

Njernda Aboriginal Corporation has a new home at 103-107 Hare Street, Echuca, to operate and expand its social services to the region's Aboriginal community and forecasts that an additional 1,700 client referrals over the next five years will improve community wellbeing.

Njernda delivers critical social and medical services to the local Aboriginal community and the broader region, with nearly 1700 clients. Its services include a medical centre, family and community engagement services, a childcare centre, kindergarten, and a drug and alcohol reform program.

The ownership of a former school on Hare Street allows Njernda to relocate services from rental properties to the new premises, allowing it to meet minimum accommodation standards and providing sufficient floor space to accommodate future growth. Njernda will make the most of these efficiencies by expanding its services, an expansion that will create 16 new full time jobs.

It also allows Njernda to develop a cultural hub where men, women, youth and families can come together for cultural activities.

Agribusiness

All forms of agriculture are practised in this region from rangeland pastoralism, through cropping to horticulture. The ILSC is looking to assist Indigenous land holders to increase their presence in agribusiness, including diversification of traditional cropping and grazing land uses, including through 'carbon farming'. The ILSC is also looking for opportunities in agribusiness supply chains that add value to basic agricultural products, and for opportunities to assist groups to purchase and manage water entitlements to drive growth in the Indigenous owned and managed agricultural and horticultural sectors.

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 valuable assets in the tourism industry.

Water-based activities

As home to the Murray-Darling Basin, the South-East region is also home to opportunities for using purchased water entitlements for irrigated agriculture and horticulture. Existing water allocations for cultural and/or environmental flows within regulated river systems also represent potential opportunities for Indigenous communities to participate in the conservation economy and in tourism. Along the coast and inland fisheries, fishing and aquaculture opportunities also exist for Indigenous communities.

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 extension of the ILSC's remit means that there are opportunities to support Indigenous aquaculture businesses, the purchase of fishing licences, supporting the development of industry access or assisting Indigenous groups to care for and reconnect with water country.

Conservation and Healthy Country

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

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.

'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.



➤ RELATIONSHIPS & LINKS

The ILSC always seeks to consult and partner with local and regional organisations in taking advantage of opportunities on Indigenous-held land and waters. Collaboration is a core principle underpinning ILSC projects.

The ILSC will work with Indigenous land and water rights holders to build capacity, networks and strategic alliances to pursue opportunities in new and emerging markets at different points along the supply chain. This will be done across industries and across both land and water-based activities.

Alliances are being pursued at four levels:

- 1. Networks** – connecting 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:

First Nations Legal & Research Services, previously Native Title Services Victoria Ltd
<https://www.fnls.com.au>

NTSCORP Ltd, NSW
<https://www.ntscorp.com.au>

Queensland South Native Title Services, Qld
<https://www.qsnts.com.au>

South Australia Native Title Services, SA
<https://www.nativetitlesa.org>

Other statutory land-based organisations are:

Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania
<https://www.atns.net.au>

Aboriginal Lands Trust of South Australia
<https://alt.sa.gov.au/wp>

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

Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council, Jervis Bay,
www.wbacc.gov.au

New South Wales has a network of 120 Local Aboriginal Land Councils;
<https://www.alc.org.au/land-councils/lalc-boundaries--contact-details.aspx>

In addition, there are two important Indigenous organisations within the Murray-Darling Basin:

Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations (NBAN)
<https://www.nban.org.au>

Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations (MLDRIN)
<https://www.mldrin.org.au>

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, advocacy, etc.) in addition to the land and water-related organisations above.

The ILSC has recently established an additional subsidiary, Yamanah Investments, to pilot a place-based approach to brokering and accelerating investment in the Indigenous Estate to meet the aspirations of Indigenous land holders.

Located in Dubbo, with a footprint taking in the Murray Darling Basin area of NSW, Yamanah will run as a pilot programme for approximately 18 months, commencing in December 2019. The ILSC is keen to explore the impact of innovative and nimble ways of working with Indigenous land holders and will consider expanding the Yamanah approach if it proves successful.



➤ 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
- Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976
- 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

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
- Central Coast Water Corporation Act 2006
- Water Management Act 2000
- Sydney Water Act 1994
- Water Act 1912
- Coastal Management Act 2016
- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
- Dams Safety Act 1978
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- Local Government Act 1993
- Natural Resources Commission Act 2003
- NSW-QLD Border Rivers Act 1946
- Pipelines Act 1967
- Public Works Act 1912
- Water Act 1912

ACT

- Heritage Act 2004
- Native Title Act 1994
- Water Resources Act 2007



Victoria

- Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006
- Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007
- Aboriginal Lands Act 1970
- Traditional Owners Settlement Act 2010
- Water Act 1989
- Water Industry Act 1992
- Heritage Rivers Act 1992
- Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung Murrong) Act 2017
- Coastal Management Act 1995

Queensland

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Holding Act 2013
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003
- Aboriginal Land Act 1991
- Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991
- Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995
- Land Act 1994
- 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 (QWQG)
- Healthy Waters Management Plans (HWMPs)
- Water Act 2000

South Australia

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

Tasmania

- Aboriginal Lands Act 1995
- National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002
- Native Title (Tasmania) Act 1994
- Nature Conservation Act 2002
- Water Management Act 1999
- Natural Resource Management Act 2002
- Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994
- Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008



Australian Government

Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation



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