



Australian Government  
Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation



The ILSC GROUP

PEOPLE. COUNTRY. OPPORTUNITY.

# Returning and managing Country 2021-22

The activities we fund are leading to change for Indigenous people.



“

*We wouldn't be able to do what we do now if we didn't have that base and just being able to stay on Country and be there and breathe it and walk it is unreal.*

Clayton Enoch, Wuthathi Land and Sea Custodian Coordinator

”



*Growing the  
value of Country*



*Owning and managing  
Country sustainably*



*Driving policy  
and opportunity*



*Preserving and  
protecting culture*

These are the four long-term outcomes, or *pathways of change* we aspire to for Indigenous communities as we work together to grow Country – land and water – and unlock the Indigenous knowledge and culture collectively held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

**In Returning and managing Country, our new annual highlights report, we:**

- profile some of the Country we returned and the management projects we funded in 2021-22
- return to two previously funded Indigenous corporations to ask ‘What changed as a result?’
- summarise how we’re broadly tracking in delivering positive change for Indigenous people.

### **Unlock your change story**

How can we help you generate change for your community? We support projects across a range of sectors including urban investment, tourism, conservation and healthy Country, agribusiness, niche Indigenous products, and water-based enterprises and assets.

**Call us for a chat: 1800 818 490**

Weaving by Banatjarl Strongbala Wimun  
Group members Dorothy Bienuwanga and  
Marileen Dullman, Jawoyn Country, NT  
Image credit: Renea Saxby

Wuthathi Custodian Coordinator Clayton  
Enoch and Elder Brian Macumboy,  
Wuthathi Country, Qld



06

## **We plant the seed together, you harvest the fruit**

We buy Country to give back to Indigenous groups. Our selection of project profiles show how the return of Country can lay the foundation for positive change for Indigenous communities.

16

## **From little things, big things grow**

Our smaller investments can lead to big things too. Here we profile some of our 'untold stories' which are driving change for Indigenous communities.

24

## **What changed as a result?**

We regularly ask our proponents how they are tracking and the changes they are seeing emerge from their funded activities. Here we ask two proponents 'What changed as a result?'

34

## **26 years supporting positive change**

Since 1995, the ILSC has worked to redress dispossession, providing for a more prosperous and culturally centred future for Indigenous people. Our numbers tell the story.

36

## **Partners in change**

We partner with Indigenous groups across the broad diversity of Indigenous Australia from cities to regional and remote areas, and from inland to coastal environments.

38

## **How we are tracking**

In 2022 the ILSC introduced a new evaluation approach where we consider what 'good value for money' looks like.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that this publication may contain the names or images of people who have passed away.

Diana's Basin, palawa Country, Tas  
Image credit: Andy Townsend  
& Tasmanian Land Conservancy



**We plant the seed together,  
you harvest the fruit**

# Returning Country

Since 1995, we have been using our funding to buy Country to give back to Indigenous people.

This is our highest profile activity working towards redressing Australia’s historic dispossession of Indigenous people through the restoration of an Indigenous land and water base.

We prioritise acquisitions that can be immediately granted to Indigenous titleholders enabling benefits to quickly flow to Indigenous people.

If required, we also offer an initial leasehold period to prospective titleholders, devising a plan for divesting the property while building experience, capability and expertise in property management.

And increasingly we are helping broker large partnerships between Indigenous corporations and existing commercial enterprises which can unlock new markets, capital, capability and capacity, and expand business potential for Indigenous products and services.

The return of Country – whether it be through the purchase of a large pastoral lease or a building in an urban or regional centre – is an intensely emotional experience. The financial security inherent in ownership of Country can often lead to the development or expansion of enterprises, improved Indigenous employment, strengthened communities and cultural practises, and better protection of Country. This critical economic, cultural, social and environmental capital continues to generate over time to benefit future generations.

We are proud that over three quarters of the land and water assets that we have purchased are under the care and control of an Indigenous title holder.

Our snapshots and selected case studies profile the full diversity of our land and water acquisitions and demonstrate how the return of Country lays the foundation for positive change for Indigenous communities.

8

**PROPERTIES  
ACQUIRED 2021-22**

\$15.8m\* / 200 ha  
(includes 2 water interests)

13

**PROPERTIES  
GRANTED 2021-22**

\$39m\*\* / 200 ha  
(includes 2 water interests)

\* purchase price  
\*\* valuation at grant

Gunbalanya station hand  
Allan Namaniyuo



New Murujuga premises



Teresa Baker, Clarise Tunkin and artists in the Tjala Arts Studio, Amata, Anangu Pitjantjatjara Country, NT  
Image credit: APY Art Centre Collective

#### PATHWAYS

Growing the value of Country

Owning and managing Country sustainably

Preserving and protecting culture

Driving policy and opportunity

## Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation secures their home – and their future, WA

*The acquisition of the MAC HQ is a great outcome for MAC and our members. The funding facilitates a permanent base on Murujuga which will provide a professional work environment and critical supporting infrastructure. This will be most helpful as our ranger team continues to expand in response to increased visitation from tourists wanting to learn about culture.*

**Peter Jeffries, CEO, Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation**

The Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation (MAC) now has a permanent home from which to run its land and sea operations in the heart of the Burrup Peninsula after purchasing the land and buildings it had previously sub-leased from a local resource company.

MAC represents over 1,200 members from five traditional language groups – Ngarluma, Yindjibarndi, Yaburara, Mardudhunera, and Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo – who are traditional custodians of Murujuga (the Burrup Peninsula) land and sea Country, including the 42 islands of the Dampier Archipelago and the Murujuga National Park.

The region is also home to one of the world's greatest collections of rock art: over one million petroglyphs some of which are estimated to be over 40,000 years old and of enormous cultural significance to the local Indigenous communities.

The purchase of the King Bay Road, Burrup property provides important security for MAC's future and its mission to preserve and protect Murujuga for future generations and to enrich and support the welfare of its members.

It will allow the corporation to grow its land and sea ranger team from five to 20 staff by 2024 in preparation for the anticipated World Heritage listing of Murujuga, and to redirect nearly \$150,000 per year in saved rental expenditure into fisheries, aquaculture, and tourism projects.

Redevelopment of the site will include the construction of a new ranger base, bringing the ranger operations' permanent facilities that are significantly closer to the Murujuga National Park than their existing shipping container base. Further refurbishments will provide modern facilities for MAC's 20 existing staff and allow expansion into potential new enterprises including a nursery for bushfoods and traditional medicines.

In partnership with the WA Government and local resource companies, MAC is also exploring opportunities to generate additional revenue by offering rent and hire of facilities and cultural awareness training. They will also be looking to use the new premises to deliver and expand their Work Readiness Program and Keys for Life learner drivers' program to local Indigenous people, and providing training to staff involved in the proposed Murujuga Tourism Precinct adjacent to the national park.

MAC are also investigating additional services for its members to assist with cost of living and emergency medical support.

*A \$3.2m ILSC grant provided for the property acquisition, refurbishment and ranger shed construction with additional funding support from Schlumberger Australia and Western Australian Government (\$4.3m) – including the gifting of the administration building – and MAC (\$466,769).*

#### PATHWAYS

Growing the value of Country

Owning and managing Country sustainably

Preserving and protecting culture

Driving policy and opportunity

## APY collective to set up permanent base and gallery in Adelaide, SA

*Property ownership for remote Indigenous Australians – as a business or personal asset – is rare. What this acquisition has meant for collective confidence and pride is nothing short of extraordinary. It has given us a stronger position for growth and sustainability of our important business and its impact on disadvantage in our remote communities. This simply wouldn't have been possible without the ILSC and supporting staff.*

**Sally Scales, artist and young APY leader**

The first Anangu-owned gallery in Australia – the APY Art Centre Collective (APYACC) – will further cement itself in the Indigenous art market as it secures a permanent location in Adelaide for its operations and future growth.

APYACC is an Anangu-controlled corporation bringing together 11 arts and culture enterprises that represent communities from the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) lands and Coober Pedy, in northern SA.

Overseen by a nine-member Board – primarily representatives of the member art centres – APYACC's members collectively support, facilitate and market the work of over 500 Anangu artists, returning 80 per cent of retail art sales to Art Centres.

Faced with an early termination to their leased premises in Adelaide's east end – a location opened in 2019 – APYACC capitalised on funding support from the ILSC in February 2022 to purchase their new premises in Thebarton where they will establish a permanent home for the Adelaide gallery, studio and headquarters.

An important cultural, social and economic hub for Anangu, the new home will provide additional security to the artists and a place where culture is celebrated, maintained and passed down to younger generations by Elders. It is also a central place for the broader Anangu community who regularly travel to Adelaide to seek support for health and family issues.

The expanded floor space will allow for an increase in visiting artists while offering more opportunity to practise with different mediums; dedicated spaces for emerging and male artists; increased live performance, collaborative project and exhibition space; a base and meeting place for other APY services including Purple House and the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women's Council; and rental opportunities.

Refurbishments will also provide for a dedicated storeroom servicing the online e-store.

The new home and improvements are expected to lead to an increase in Anangu jobs; culturally affirming employment and additional income and security for artists and art centres; improved skills, pride, health and wellbeing for Anangu communities; and a higher profile for the APY Lands.

The APYACC also has galleries in Sydney, Melbourne and online, and is setting up the Umoona Art Centre in Coober Pedy, SA the first Indigenous-owned facility of its kind there.

The new Adelaide gallery is expected to open to the public in early 2023.

*A \$2.5m ILSC grant contributed to the acquisition and fit-out of the premises with APYACC covering the remaining costs.*



QMDCL and ILSC representatives at the handback celebration



Abalone  
Image credit: Peter Southwood, CC BY-SA 3.0 via Wikimedia Commons

#### PATHWAYS

Growing the value of Country

Owning and managing Country sustainably

Preserving and protecting culture

## New St George home base bolsters successful ranger program, Qld

*Having this property will enable us to expand our programs and services, apply for grants to run more programs and to work with both government and non-government agencies collaboratively on projects to benefit the community.*

**Chandel Eyre, General Manager, Queensland Murray Darling Catchment Ltd**

The recent acquisition of a permanent home base for the Queensland Murray Darling Catchment Ltd (QMDCL) in St George will be a game changer for the not-for-profit Indigenous organisation which delivers natural resources management and environmental services across the nationally significant catchment.

Supported by 14 staff and representing eight Traditional Owner groups, QMDCL's successful ranger program is central to its activities.

Up until now the rangers have been operating from three locations – in Toowoomba, St George and Inglewood – servicing over 100,000 square kilometres of Country with a variety of cultural and environmental programs and services.

However, the ongoing leasehold costs, limited amenity of each single use site, and the logistical challenges/costs associated with accommodating and moving people and equipment hundreds of kilometres between sites has become a substantial business burden.

Bolstered by recent funding certainty given by the National Indigenous Australians Agency for the ranger program, QMDCL will now consolidate its ranger activities in a single location in St George.

Acquired in October 2021, the new property includes a workshop-sized shed, camp kitchen, residential house, ablution blocks and basic accommodation.

For QMDCL it offers a ready-made depot and administration hub to carry out ranger activities, secure storage, space for training, facilities to host stakeholder engagement, and accommodation for visiting rangers and Traditional Owners.

The new home base is expected to improve QMDCL's visibility and consolidate its place in St George as a capable environmental and cultural management provider. An anticipated increase in fee-for-service contracts will help drive the self-generating revenue required to realise QMDCL's self-determination agenda to diversify away from reliance on government grant funding.

Other activities proposed for the site include an outdoor area for a yarning circle, a program for young people disengaged from school and a rehabilitation program for those who come into contact with the criminal justice system.

The property handover was celebrated with a community event on 30 March 2022.

*The \$576,300 ILSC grant provided for the acquisition and repairs to the property.*

#### PATHWAYS

Growing the value of Country

Owning and managing Country sustainably

Preserving and protecting culture

Driving policy and opportunity

## Abalone acquisition supports state's first commercial Aboriginal fishery, Tas

*This is our food. It's our resource and it was taken away from us. We've been getting locked up for too long when we try to take it back. This opportunity can turn all that around.*

**Rodney Dillon, palawa Elder and Chair, Land and Sea Aboriginal Corporation of Tasmania**

Forty units of abalone valued at \$8 million are now in the hands of Tasmanian Aboriginal communities with the establishment of the state's first formally recognised Aboriginal fishery.

The historic agreement – marked by a March 2022 ceremony on Aboriginal land at Murrayfield on Bruny Island – provides the Land and Sea Aboriginal Corporation of Tasmania (LSACT) with access to fish the 40 abalone units, known as the Furneaux Units, in the waters around Tasmania.

With the abalone quota owned by the Tasmanian Government and put out annually to tender, the LSACT acquisition will initially start as a discounted three-year lease enabling LSACT to build capability and establish its operations.

By year four, LSACT is looking to permanently own the quota, where 100 per cent of the Aboriginal quota will be harvested and marketed under a unique Aboriginal brand by its wholly Indigenous workforce.

The commercial aspirations are an enormous advance for Aboriginal fishing rights in Tasmania which have previously been limited to non-commercial fishing, and for the collection of shellfish for traditional necklace making. Returning Indigenous wild-catch to local restaurant tables will enable wider regional development growth with the establishment of 'cradle to grave' programs for connection to sea Country and healthy employment futures.

The largest in the world, the Tasmanian wild abalone fishery is estimated to provide around 25 per cent of global wild harvest, contributing approximately \$100 million annually to the Tasmanian economy along with \$300 million of associated economic activity.

Until now Tasmanian Aboriginal peoples have been largely excluded from this industry.

The 40 Furneaux Units – one per cent of the entire abalone industry in Tasmania – is expected to enable the commercial harvest of approximately 9.5 tonnes of abalone annually; create 11 employment outcomes and training for Tasmanian Aboriginal peoples in seafood processing, tourism and hospitality; revive traditional cultural harvesting practices; and generate an average of \$500,000 in annual revenue.

With 95 per cent of abalone exported overseas, there is no local abalone food tourism infrastructure. LSACT intend to take advantage of this gap by being the first to exclusively build a market from Indigenous-led branding and restaurant partnerships to centre wild-catch abalone with the practise of caring for sea Country.

*The \$700,000 ILSC grant is being provided for the costs associated with acquiring and managing the abalone quota including commercial dive licences and assistance in establishing the enterprise.*



*Growing the  
value of Country*



*Owning & managing  
Country sustainably*



*Driving policy &  
opportunity*



*Preserving &  
protecting culture*

## New location for Budj Bim ranger and tourism operations, Vic

Winda Mara Aboriginal Corporation has purchased the property it previously leased in Portland, Victoria providing it with a permanent base from which to continue running – and expanding – its ranger and tourism operations which service the World Heritage listed Budj Bim Cultural Landscape on Gunditjmara Country.

**ILSC investment** \$977, 815

**Partner** Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (Vic)

## Dja Dja Wurrung secure water licence to establish yabby farm, Vic

The Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation is being supported to purchase a water licence near Bendigo, Victoria where they intend to establish a commercial yabby farm. The corporation's first agricultural enterprise will build on existing commercial success in providing natural resources management, on Country education and cultural activities.

**ILSC investment** \$3.6m

## Property in sacred Bunya Mountains returned to Traditional Owners, Qld

The Bunya people have realised a long-held ambition to establish a permanent home in the sacred Bunya Mountains in southern Queensland with the acquisition and refurbishment of Camp Bunya. The purchase will help restore the Bunya Mountains as a traditional gathering place for the region's Aboriginal communities and provide a base for the Bunya Peoples' Aboriginal Corporation to run their core land management and tourism operations.

**ILSC investment** \$656,542

## Diana's Basin returned to Aboriginal ownership, Tas

A 195-hectare coastal bush property in the north-east of Tasmania has become the first in the area to be returned to Aboriginal ownership. The purchase by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation will reconnect community to Country enabling preservation of the property's significant biodiversity values and the delivery of wellbeing programs and community events.

**ILSC investment** \$655,185

**Partner** Tasmanian Land Conservancy

## Site of Redfern social enterprise now under Indigenous ownership, NSW

The site of the existing National Centre of Indigenous Excellence (NCIE), a social enterprise supporting the local Redfern Indigenous community, was transferred to its new owners – the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC) – on 30 June 2022. Subject to community consultation and consent processes, NSWALC envisage further development of the NCIE site, bringing further investment to the location to realise additional community benefits. The ILSC continues to underwrite and provide corporate services to support existing NCIE operations. The ILSC has invested approximately \$65 million into the acquisition, development and operations of NCIE since its acquisition in October 2006 with an additional \$32.8 million in capital expenditure to develop and equip the property.

**ILSC investment** \$97.8 million

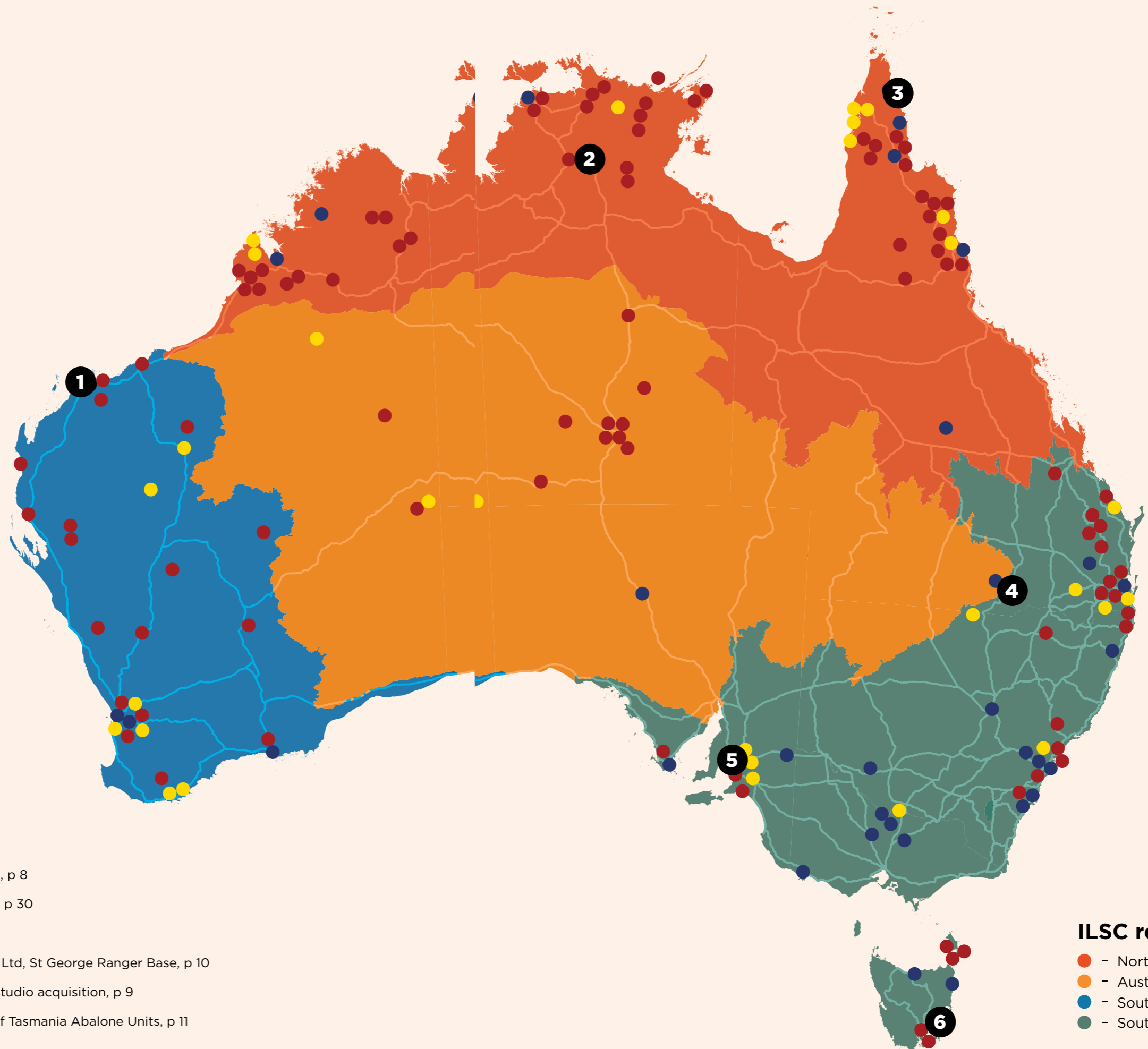


Bruny Island, site of the LSACT abalone acquisition agreement signing (p 11), palawa Country, Tas

Image credit: Takver from Australia, CC BY-SA 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons

# Returning and managing Country 2021-22

- - Active management projects
- - New active management projects
- - Granted properties



## Project profile and case study locations 2021-22

- 1 Murujuga Head Office Land Acquisition, p 8
- 2 Banatjarl Sustainable Power and Water, p 30
- 3 Wuthathi Ranger Base, p 26
- 4 Queensland Murray Darling Catchment Ltd, St George Ranger Base, p 10
- 5 APY Art Centre Collective gallery and studio acquisition, p 9
- 6 Land and Sea Aboriginal Corporation of Tasmania Abalone Units, p 11

## ILSC regions

- - Northern
- - Australian Desert
- - South-East
- - South-West

# 103

## MANAGEMENT PROJECTS 2021-22

(including 24 new projects)

### Managing Country

We also assist Indigenous people to manage their assets and realise their aspirations by investing in a huge variety of management projects from kindergartens, schools and childcare to aged care, social enterprises, community gardens; art and cultural centres; farming equipment; solar panels; and numerous business cases and feasibility studies.

Often involving smaller investments, these projects can lead to big things.

Funds for a tractor, for example, can deliver greater productivity from an agricultural enterprise which in turn leads to revenue which can be driven back into a business.

Likewise, a simple investment in solar panels can both deliver on sustainability goals and drive down electricity costs freeing up precious funds for re-investment and business growth.

The following snapshots are all excellent examples of how a simple ILSC investment can lead to the generation of significant social, cultural, economic and environmental capital that will continue to deliver for future generations.

Proponent quotes in the following snapshots have been sourced from ILSC Progress Reports.

## From little things... big things grow

PATHWAYS

Owning and managing Country sustainably

## Jinyadii plans its wilderness and bushfoods enterprise, WA

*...a road journey from Broome via the Great Northern Highway to Jinyadii's coastal retreat site highlighted the beauty and potential of the tourism experiences. It resulted in the development of a strategic plan to explore the tourism and bush tucker options for Jinyadii.*

The Jinyadii Aboriginal Corporation's (JAC) desire to establish cultural tourism and bushfood production on Jinyadii, their eight-hectare Dampier Peninsula-based property in the West Kimberley, has been given a boost with funding to undertake strategic planning and business development. Already progressed in building key relationships and business planning, a consultant is working with JAC to develop a set of strategic actions that will build JAC's capability to establish and operate the proposed Jinyadii Wilderness Camp as well as growing its existing bushfoods business from start-up stage. The main driver for JAC is to create employment opportunities on the property so that more of its members can live and work on their traditional Country.

**ILSC investment** \$14,320

Growing the value of Country

Owning and managing Country sustainably

Preserving and protecting culture

## New bus central to growing tourism business, Qld

Taribelang Bunda Cultural Tours (TBCT) – a start-up Indigenous business based in Bundaberg, Queensland – is sporting a shiny new tourist bus to transport its customers. An initiative of the Taribelang Aboriginal Corporation (TAC), the new tourism venture was established in October 2021 to provide Taribelang Bunda people with a key revenue stream while sharing places of cultural significance with visitors. The fit for purpose, branded bus will build TBCT's profile while enabling the business to service short notice bookings and avoid bus hire costs. The only cultural tour of its kind in Bundaberg, TBCT is enabling Bunda employment and training; increasing connection to Country; and strengthening professional ties with key tourism agencies. The bus will also provide an additional support for Bunda community, education and health programs.

**ILSC investment** \$89,667

**Partner** National Indigenous Australians Agency

Owning and managing Country sustainably

Preserving and protecting culture

Driving policy and opportunity

## Private Land Conservation Conference sponsorship

Forty Indigenous delegates from across Australia were sponsored to attend the Private Land Conservation Conference in March 2022 where they were able to exchange knowledge and build professional relationships and networks. Hosted by the Australian Land Conservation Alliance and attended by over 350 people representing Indigenous groups, large and small NGOs, philanthropic donors, government, and the private sector, the conference showcases the diverse people, places and practises that contribute to the conservation and health of land, water and sea. ILSC funding assisted the alliance to enhance Indigenous participation and attendance, complementing efforts to deliver a culturally safe and relevant conference that integrated Indigenous perspectives and reflected the importance of Indigenous land and sea management.

**ILSC investment** \$20,000

Owning and managing Country sustainably

Preserving and protecting culture

Driving policy and opportunity

## Indigenous delegates have their say at bushfoods 'think tank', Qld

*The 'think tank' event was very well received and provided participants with the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of challenges related to growing the sector and increasing Indigenous participation.*

Indigenous representatives from across Australia were sponsored by the ILSC to attend a Brisbane workshop on building the bushfood sector. Hosted by Australian Native Food and Botanicals, Australia's peak body for the rapidly growing Australian native food and botanical sector, the 'think thank' brought together key delegates to build knowledge and to ensure Indigenous people have a say in and secure benefits from the industry.

**ILSC investment** \$15,000

PATHWAYS

Growing the value of Country

Owning and managing Country sustainably

Preserving and protecting culture

Driving policy and opportunity

## New method for assessing environmental benefits of savanna burning, Qld

*APN Cape York Indigenous Rangers, Ecologist and Traditional Owners have worked well...[developing]...the methodology on-Country and with participatory fly-overs for reconnaissance, validation and survey site selection and scoping the infrastructure or equipment required to establish survey sites.*

The carbon credits generated from carbon farming projects – traded through a market system – can be key sources of income for Indigenous landholders. The development of a new Australian method for demonstrating ecological co-benefits from savanna burning projects is being developed by Aak Puul Ngantam Ltd, trading as APN Cape York. It responds to the lack of an existing methodology for assessing the environmental benefits generated from savanna burning, broadly considered to be beneficial in mitigating the damaging late-season wildfires that dominated this region's post-colonisation fire regime. To develop the new method APN rangers and Traditional Owners are working alongside an ecologist to capture the data. It will initially be applied to two specific northern Australian savanna burning projects but is expected to be transferable to other savanna areas.

**ILSC investment** \$195,975

**Partner** North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance

Driving policy and opportunity

## Opportunities for improving Indigenous participation in agriculture

A new report examining the agriculture capacity of Indigenous land in Australia's agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture industries was commissioned to identify opportunities for increasing Indigenous contribution to this sector. With the research underpinned by detailed case studies, the July 2022 report found that despite an emerging Indigenous agribusiness industry, Indigenous enterprises are generally not responsible for the significant amount of primary production that occurs on the Indigenous Estate. To raise the profile and realise the potential of Indigenous primary production, the report sets out priority actions to establish reliable data for decision-making, promote Indigenous enterprises, attract private capital, and strengthen industry leadership. For access to the report contact the ILSC 1800 818 490.

**ILSC investment** \$54,800

**Partners** Australian National University; Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia; former Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Growing the value of Country

Owning and managing Country sustainably

Preserving and protecting culture

Driving policy and opportunity

## New art centre for remote Tjukurla to bring artists, community and visitors together, WA

Tjukurla – an Aboriginal community located in the Goldfields-Esperance region of Western Australia, within the Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku – will soon be home to a purpose-built arts centre after funding was secured by the Tjarlirli Art Indigenous Corporation (TAIC). The new centre will replace the existing facility's cramped and dilapidated conditions which have increased maintenance costs while reducing employee retention and ultimately artist participation, sales and income. TAIC currently represent 150 Ngaanyatjarra and Pitjantjatjara artists through two remote art centres and deliver health and community care and cultural wellbeing programs in the area. The new arts centre/gallery will offer a centralised hub which brings artists, community and visitors together, strengthening cultural practises and local employment.

**ILSC investment** \$366,000

**Partners** Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support; Lotterywest



Cultural burning of savanna country, northern Australia  
Image credit: Phil Schouteten/APN Cape York

## PATHWAYS

Growing the value of Country

Owning and managing Country sustainably

Preserving and protecting culture

## Access to secondary education improved for remote students, WA

*Communities/families can have their children [access a] high school while remaining close enough to be able to visit and maintain regular contact, promotes children to graduate year 12 and stay close to home.*

Three adjoining houses in Newman, Western Australia have been refurbished to establish a student hostel to improve the educational outcomes for Martu youth in the remote Pilbara. Owned by Jamukurnu Yopalikunu Aboriginal Corporation, the houses provide for culturally appropriate accommodation for up to 12 male and female Martu students from remote Pilbara communities so they can attend Newman Senior High School. With its first students commencing in August 2022, the Martu Student Hostel will pilot a five-year secondary school education alternative that is considerably closer to families than Perth – where children have previously had to board to extend their education beyond primary school – and supported by Martu Elders and employees.

**ILSC investment** \$128,028

**Partners** WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development; Western Desert Lands Aboriginal Corporation (Jamukurnu-Yopalikunu) RNTBC; Pilbara Development Commission (Port Hedland office); BHP Billiton

## ICIN cementing its place as peak body for Indigenous carbon

The Indigenous Carbon Industry Network (ICIN) – the peak industry body for Indigenous-owned and operated carbon projects across Australia – is improving its capacity and capability to serve its 20 member organisations. With ICIN’s members managing around 18 million hectares of mostly Indigenous-held land, ILSC funding for business and strategic planning, a policy and procedure manual, and code of conduct comes at a crucial time for the recently incorporated ICIN. Initially hosted by Warddeken Land Management in the Northern Territory, the Indigenous-led ICIN was established in 2018 and incorporated in September 2021 following three years of member consultation. It is committed to ensuring Indigenous groups across Australia can maximise benefits from carbon projects and the carbon industry.

**ILSC investment** \$195,130

**Partner** Warddeken Land Management Limited

## New tree farm machinery boosts productivity and employment, WA

*Word of mouth among the local Aboriginal community and positive feedback to local people from Aboriginal employees is resulting in increased Aboriginal employment rates.*

The Indigenous owners of ‘Boola Boornap’ – Place of Many Trees – a native tree farm nursery near Northam, Western Australia, are already seeing improvements to business productivity with the purchase of new vehicles and machinery to assist with seed collection, seeding, seedling deliveries and maintenance of property roads. Having initially purchased the property with partner support and planted one million native plant seedlings in 2020-21, the Noongar Land Enterprise Group Incorporated have been filling orders for land restoration and carbon farming plantings primarily on non-Indigenous held land. The improved productivity from the ILSC investment has already led to increased Aboriginal training and employment, positioning local Aboriginal people to be a major player in the supply chain for WA’s revegetation and landcare activities.

**ILSC investment** \$277,195

**Partners** Allens; Commonland Foundation; COmON Foundation; Stul Family Foundation; WA Department of Regional Development Agriculture and Food



Seedling delivery, Noongar Country, WA

## PATHWAYS

Growing the value of Country

Owning and managing Country sustainably

## Walitj Mia Mia Farm to strengthen sheep enterprise, WA

*The project provided training experiences for 3 young Noongar men aged 15-18 years. As a result, these young men have shown interest in farming business.*

The Walitj Mia Mia Aboriginal Corporation’s (WAC) desire to have full operating control of all the activities on its property – Walitj Mia Mia Farm – are a step closer with funds secured to scale up its sheep enterprise. With no permanent staff, farm activities have been undertaken by WAC’s members on a voluntary basis causing inconsistencies in sheep husbandry and production (and profit) levels that are lower than the land can support. The new funding will enable the organisation to build their stock and sheep farming capabilities with the help of a farming consultant; increase local Indigenous employment and training; extinguish a cattle agistment lease, returning valuable land back to the enterprise; and ultimately to reinvest the anticipated increased profits back into the business for the benefit of WAC and the local Noongar community. The property is located near Albany, WA.

**ILSC investment** \$623,187



Rounding sheep, Walitj Mia Mia Farm, Noongar Country, WA

## Regional health provider plans for new location, SA

Having outgrown its existing facilities, a health and wellbeing service in Murray Bridge, South Australia is exploring its options to relocate to new premises. Moorundi Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service Ltd is the primary Aboriginal healthcare provider supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on Ngarrindjeri Country. With demand for services experiencing a 10-fold increase in recent years, the organisation is currently exploring alternative locations for its services to improve efficiencies, enable expansion and support a more collaborative and integrated community service.

**ILSC investment** \$31,000

## Jidi Jidi secure equipment supporting ranger program, WA

*The Jidi Jidi rangers have been able to prepare their unit for remote on-Country activities which will enable their self-sufficiency and capability to manage their own ranger program. Improved relationships between mining, local and state governments and pastoralists have occurred since the rangers have been more present on-Country and are visible.*

The Jidi Jidi Aboriginal Corporation (JJAC) ranger team recently conducted baseline fauna and flora surveys and inspections of cultural heritage sites during multiple visits to the Nharnuwangga Wajarri Ngarlawangga native title determination area, located in the Upper Murchison and Upper Gascoyne regions of Western Australia. The ranger team’s WA Government funded surveys of the poorly scientifically documented Collier Ranges National Park and surrounds were further supported by ILSC funding – including safety items and off-road trailer – and access to a conservator for training and advice in remote handling, transport and storage of cultural materials. The combined funding supports JJAC’s aspirations to establish a sustainable land management unit which meets the demand for local land management services in the region – including from mining companies active in the area – and provides local training and sustainable, ongoing employment for its members.

**ILSC investment** \$46,919

**Partner** WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions



Rangers completing revegetation work, Nharnuwangga Wajarri Ngarlawangga Country, WA

## PATHWAYS

Growing the value of Country

Owning and managing Country sustainably

Preserving and protecting culture

Driving policy and opportunity

## New Dampier Peninsula campground to generate economic benefits to Indigenous businesses, WA

A new campground has been built by the Djarindjin Aboriginal Corporation (DAC) to improve visitor access to cultural tourism experiences on Western Australia's remote, predominantly Indigenous-controlled, Dampier Peninsula in the West Kimberley. Strategically located at the intersection of roads leading to the north and west of the peninsula, the campground augments DAC's existing tourism facilities and is expected to generate economic and employment benefits for the many Indigenous-controlled businesses beyond the campground.

**ILSC investment** \$949,113

**Partners** Tourism WA; WA Indigenous Tourism Operators Council Association Inc



Djarindjin Campground, Bardi Country, WA

## PATHWAYS

Growing the value of Country

Owning and managing Country sustainably

Preserving and protecting culture

Driving policy and opportunity

## Boost to First Nations bushfood and botanical alliance, Qld

*Our initial seed funding has fundamentally changed the ability of our organisation to interact, develop and plan a secure and prosperous future for our new Indigenous-led industry body.*

The First Nations Bushfood & Botanical Alliance Australia (FNBBA) Ltd is strengthening its position as the leading Indigenous-controlled entity supporting First Nations activities in the bushfood sector. First established by volunteers in May 2020, the FNBBA was an outcome of the ILSC-supported, inaugural 2019 First Nations Bushfood Symposium. Assisted by initial ILSC seed funding the alliance is now led by a Board of Indigenous leaders in the bushfood sector supporting a growing membership of Indigenous organisations. This latest ILSC investment will help the alliance implement its new business plan including supporting education programs and training, bushfoods business development workshops, industry negotiations and partnership development including with the industry's non-Indigenous peak body Australian Native Food and Botanicals.

**ILSC investment** \$200,000



Wattle seed

Growing the value of Country

Owning and managing Country sustainably

Preserving and protecting culture

Driving policy and opportunity

## Ngurrara Country interpretive shelter and sign to raise profile and protection, WA

A new interpretive shelter and educational signage will be installed by the Yanunijarra Aboriginal Corporation and Ngurrara Rangers in Western Australia's Kimberley region. Designed to educate visitors about Ngurrara culture and history and how to engage with Country using culturally respectful protocols, the shelter will be installed on Nugurrara Country along the Canning Stock Route, a popular four-wheel drive route which is seeing increased annual visitation. 'Welcome to Ngurrara Country' signs will also be placed along access points into Ngurrara traditional lands while signage on pastoral station gates will be aimed at native title holders seeking to practise customary rights on the property. The project – an outcome of the ILSC-funded Ngurrara Tourism Business Development Plan 2020-23 – is expected to support improved cultural site protection and access; additional cultural tourism products and experiences; and pastoral lessee engagement.

**ILSC investment** \$80,000

**Partner** National Indigenous Australians Agency

Growing the value of Country

Owning and managing Country sustainably

Preserving and protecting culture

Driving policy and opportunity

## Plans to turn temporary rail camp into a permanent park and tourist facility, Qld

The Bigambul Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (BNTAC) has been funded to conduct detailed master planning, design, costings and stakeholder engagement for a proposed conversation park and cultural tourism facility on its Millmerran property. Located in Queensland's Darling Downs region, BNTAC are looking to repurpose the temporary infrastructure that will be put in place on the property to accommodate a workforce connected to the Australian Government's Inland Rail project, a new 1700-kilometre freight rail corridor that will connect Melbourne and Brisbane. Capitalising on the Inland Rail project presents a significant opportunity for the Bigambul people to improve management of existing held land with a view to establishing a permanent facility for generating long-term economic benefits.

**ILSC investment** \$113,500

**Partners** QGC Pty Ltd; Traditional Owners Transition Ventures Pty Ltd t/as Impact 250

Growing the value of Country

Owning and managing Country sustainably

Preserving and protecting culture

Driving policy and opportunity

## Local store to boost Goodooga economy and wellbeing, NSW

Residents of the north-western New South Wales town of Goodooga – predominantly an Indigenous community – will soon have access to fresh food for the first time in 10 years with the construction of a local store. With the closest grocery store up to 100 kilometres away, a local store will help keep local spend in the town and provide much-needed employment and training opportunities for the local community. The new store will be constructed on land owned by the Goodooga Local Aboriginal Land Council with funds secured by the North West Land Trust. It will be managed by Outback Stores while construction and store staff will be sourced by Regional Enterprise Development Institute Ltd, a local Indigenous-owned and managed employment and training service.

**ILSC investment** \$401,044

**Partner** National Indigenous Australians Agency; NSW Aboriginal Land Council; Regional Enterprise Development Institute Ltd



Goodooga Community Store, Yuwaalaraay Country, NSW

Growing the value of Country

Owning and managing Country sustainably

Preserving and protecting culture

Driving policy and opportunity

## Yorta Yorta pursue honey, wattle seed and native tree production, NSW

Yorta Yorta Nations Aboriginal Corporation (YYNAC) has received the necessary investment to pursue a range of commercial opportunities which align with its desire to optimise the commercial potential of its 380 hectare 'Ulunja' property at Barmah, New South Wales. Backed by YYNAC's capability partners, the project will bring the underperforming agricultural property into full commercial production of wattle seed and medicinal honey as well as establishing a native tree nursery for natural resource management programs. The ventures are anticipated to create sustainable and diversified employment and training opportunities for YYNAC's members while also protecting the sacred sandhills that hold important connection for the Yorta Yorta people.

**ILSC investment** \$3.4m

**Partner** Gather By

## What changed as a result?

Large or small, we want all ILSC investments to generate long-term positive outcomes for Indigenous people. We regularly check in with our proponents to ask them how they are tracking and the changes they are seeing emerge from their funded activities.

In the following case studies, we chat to two proponents about how the projects we funded in previous years are bringing change to their communities.





Elders, Directors and Custodians on Ngaachi (land), left to right: Micheal Macumboy, Davis Wilson, Smithy Wilson, Loddy Chippendale, Brian Macumboy, Neil Butcher, Nicholas Macumboy, Keron Murray and Cecil Macumboy

#### PATHWAYS

Growing the value of Country

Owning and managing Country sustainably

Preserving and protecting culture

Driving policy and opportunity

## New Wuthathi custodian base the next ‘stepping stone’ to self-determination

*We wouldn't be able to do what we do now if we didn't have that base and just being able to stay on Country and be there and breathe it and walk it is unreal.*

**Clayton Enoch, Wuthathi Land and Sea Custodian Coordinator**

In October 2021 the Wuthathi Aboriginal Corporation (WAC) finished construction of their new custodian (ranger) base at Shelburne Bay on Wuthathi Country, Cape York Peninsula. We chatted to WAC members 12 months later to hear what's changed, first asking Clayton Enoch, the Wuthathi Land and Sea Custodian Coordinator and major project driver, what it was like before the base was constructed.

“Prior to the base construction, our custodians were based 10 hours away in the Wuthathi Aboriginal Corporation's office in Cairns,” he said. “We had to store some of our equipment at Queensland National Parks' Heathlands ranger base and drive overnight to work on Country for a week or two at a time.”

The commute, coupled with a lack of infrastructure on Country, was creating significant inefficiencies for the team and making it largely unviable to undertake any major works program.

Following the Queensland Government's 2016 handback to WAC of Aboriginal freehold land and the cooperatively managed Wuthathi Shelburne Bay National Park in the Shelburne Bay area, the corporation successfully secured funding in 2020 from the ILSC and other partners to build the new custodian base.

Designed by Clayton Enoch working with the Elders and the Wuthathi Board, the base includes four retrofitted shipping containers mounted on concrete footings that can be locked and secured during the cyclone season. It provides for the custodians' accommodation, storage and operational needs and its off-grid design includes a solar and battery system and water tanks.

The base can accommodate six custodians and is currently housing four – the first time Wuthathi people have been permanently living on Country since they were forcibly removed in the late 1800s to early 1900s.

Since the base construction, Clayton and the custodians have been able to step up their operations on Country:

“We've been doing a lot,” he said.

“We've had wet and dry season water quality monitoring, seagrass monitoring, and we've just tapped into Department of Agricultural, Fisheries and Forestry biosecurity funding. We've just started doing biosecurity patrols for them and they've helped fund us to set the office up and provided some training for custodians.”

The custodian base has also enabled the corporation to attract additional investment from philanthropic organisations, the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) and other federal and state agencies. Jim Turnour, WAC General Manager explains:

“The base provides critical infrastructure to implement the Indigenous Protected Area plan that we hope will be dedicated in 2023. It enabled us to leverage funding for more custodians; for water quality and seagrass monitoring and a whole range of other work; to extend contracts; and to create more jobs on Country.

“We have since secured NIAA infrastructure funding to expand the base to include a new bore and female custodian accommodation that will be built in 2023.

“And that's just the beginning of what's been achieved in the last 12 months.”

For Keron Murray – the corporation's Chair – the base was a long time coming:

“Wuthathi people have always been conservationists and cared for Country as shown by our Elders who took up the fight against proposed sand mining, a space port and other proposed tourism developments. Their vision and the one we continue today was to return our people and manage our Country as our Elders before us.

“Now we have our first infrastructure on Country and the ability to manage our land, we continue to focus on returning our people home.”

There is much more needing to be done.

“At present there is limited accommodation at the base and most custodians have families”, said Clayton.

“We would like to see opportunities for families to be able to live and work on Country. We also need more infrastructure and equipment to help manage Country including a sea Country base and boats.”

Keron agreed and has a message for the ILSC too:

“With the adding of ‘sea’ in the ILSC it's essential they fund boats as well as infrastructure.

“A boat is essentially a road... [it] gives you the means necessary to manage the sea.”

Meanwhile Wuthathi Elders are returning to Country more frequently, supporting the custodians and their various programs. For Johnson Chippendale, Wuthathi Elder and former WAC Chair, returning to Country comes with tremendous responsibility:

“...to get back on Country...it's a big responsibility for me as an Elder to pass the knowledge on to our young people. We must continue to practise our lore and customs and share knowledge of Country so our lore is carried on by future generations.”

But their ambition, Johnson continues, remains the same:

“We want to make the most of all our trips to Country but we eventually want to live there. That's our main goal – have our own community of people living and working on Country.”



Custodian Davis Wilson conducting seagrass monitoring



Custodians Ashley Wilson and Fabian Macumboy conducting water monitoring



Wuthathi Custodian Coordinator Clayton Enoch and Elder Brian Macumboy patrolling Ngaachi (land)



Aerial view of the Wuthathi custodian base

With their first step complete, the WAC have been busy progressing their goals through the development of their Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) Plan and have just commenced a master plan for Wuthathi Country to implement their Healthy Country and IPA plans. Keron elaborates:

“Our next priorities are to establish a sea Country base, tourism infrastructure, and community, for people to get back on Country. We want to do some planning around tourism so we can position the Wuthathi people as economically sustainable and not just dependent or reliant on government funding.”

**ILSC investment** \$467,814 for site preparation, installation of the buildings, connection of essential services, and the installation of solar and battery power.

**Partners** Qld Government, National Indigenous Australians Agency, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

## Wuthathi Country

On behalf of Wuthathi people, the Wuthathi Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (WAC) holds land and sea interests in trust in north-eastern Cape York Peninsula approximately 800 kilometres north of Cairns. This includes 1,182 square kilometres of Australia’s mainland, coastal and offshore islands, and 8,072 square kilometres of marine waters within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and the Coral Sea. These are some of the most significant environmental values in Cape York Peninsula including giant white silica sand dunes and perched lakes lying amongst vast areas of diverse vegetation ranging from heathlands to rainforest and eucalypt woodlands. Wuthathi sea Country includes Thukuru (Raine Island), the world’s largest remaining nesting population for the internationally endangered Green Sea Turtle.



Custodians, Elders and contractors during base construction



Elder Cecil Macumboy on Thukuru (Raine Island)



Banatjarl Strongbala Wimun Grup including staff and Elders – Pip Gordon, Dorothy Bienuwanga, Andrea Andrews, Jean Tiati, Maria Farrell, Devina Jentian, Rosaleen McDonald, Miliwanga Wurrben, Josephine Brinjen, Maria Friel, Nell Brown, Esther Bulumbara – at Banatjarl  
Image credit: BSWG

#### PATHWAYS

Growing the value of Country

Owning and managing Country sustainably

Preserving and protecting culture

Driving policy and opportunity

## Reliable power and water supply transformative for Banatjarl women’s group activities, NT

*The Banatjarl Strongbala Wimun Grup are stepping up. We now have good power which means we can cook and host people from different places and share our culture and Country. We continue to grow and plan for the future and this is so important to our Elders and young people working together.*

**Andrea Andrews, Jawoyn Board Director / Team Leader for Banatjarl Ngalmuka Healing Program (Women’s Healing)**

For 20 years the Banatjarl Strongbala Wimun Grup (BSWG) have been delivering programs and activities to create positive change for women, families and communities on Jawoyn Country in Arnhem Land, NT. Based at ‘Banatjarl’, the former King Valley Station and a place of enormous cultural significance to the Jawoyn people, the group’s members run the Banatjarl Family Healing and Resource Centre and are a beacon for the community, promoting cultural connection and wellbeing and empowering women’s leadership and enterprises.

When Pip Gordon joined the group as coordinator in September 2019 she found a community anxious that all that work was under threat. We chat to her about how investment in power and water infrastructure has not only secured, but transformed, the BSWG’s activities and led to the return of families to Country and local employment.

“The women’s group have always maintained this incredible ability to keep coming together but they relied on a lot of volunteers and when I arrived I was their first coordinator for years. Prior to that there had been no financial focus towards what the group were doing.”

Keen to help raise the group’s profile and work, Pip quickly discovered that the infrastructure at Banatjarl was holding the programs back. An unreliable generator was providing insufficient power and water across the site: there was an inadequate water supply to the Bush Garden and Medijin Garden – a source of healthy bush food and medicine for the local community and an income stream for the BSWG – and a lack of drinking water and pressure for flushing toilets.

It was clear to the women – and to Pip – that Banatjarl needed a power and water upgrade.

“It was such an obvious first step to supporting the women’s group to do all the things that they wanted to do, and had been doing, but it was just getting to a point where we couldn’t seek further funding, we couldn’t extend programs, the women were held back because the infrastructure just wasn’t there.”

A successful application to the ILSC provided for the installation of three off-grid, industrial strength solar systems suited to remote conditions and with sufficient capacity to provide for water, lighting, cooling, refrigeration and sewerage, as well as an upgrade to the existing solar bore pump to provide high pressure water supply to the bush and medicine gardens.

While COVID-19-related supply chain issues and community lockdowns meant delays to sourcing key equipment, land preparation and worker access, the installation was finally completed in May 2021 – just in time for it to be put to the test at a major community event. Pip recalls:

“It was finally installed a week before we successfully hosted the Strong Wimun Healthy Country forum which had over 300 women attend so that was very much a ‘let’s see if this works’; we hoped that it had the capacity but we didn’t know until we were actually in it!”

The reliable power and water supply brought immediate benefits to the women’s group who were now able to safely host and grow the Banatjarl-based programs.

“To go back to health and safety, we had the amenity blocks but unless you can keep them clean and flush a toilet, you can’t have people come out. So this just changed that. Other than wet season there are now programs and visitors – including schoolkids – there weekly.”

Momentum quickly built for the group’s programs and with the visitors came new opportunities, employment and funding. One unexpected outcome the women observed was renewed interest from young Jawoyn people – this has led to a boost to the BSWG membership but also to new enterprise development and jobs.

“When I started it was only Elders. Now we are growing the programs and cultural camps, that has brought in young people and young women are talking about the opportunities they see.”

These young women, Pip explains, are learning from the Elders but keen to tell the stories in different ways – through screen printing, and ceramics, as well as the more traditional bush medicine. The women’s new skills are leading to new products, enterprises and employment.



Banatjarl guest learning weaving at a 54 Reasons tea party

“It started off as markets and festivals but now we’re about to take over the Nitmiluk Gift Shop which is so exciting. No more stuff that is made or printed in Asia; it’s all locally sourced.”

The employment opportunities have not stopped at markets and gift shops. Pip estimates that 37 women are now employed at Banatjarl in casual and full-time roles including cultural facilitation, project management, teaching weaving, making bush medicine, holding cultural camps, working in the garden, and training NGOs and services on how to engage with the local Jawoyn community on issues including child protection and youth crime.

And for the first time families are living on Country and women have a place for respite.

“There was nobody living at Banatjarl permanently prior to this. Now there are at least 4-5 Banatjarl women and 3-4 men, probably about 6-7 kids. It’s shifting into a potential homeland.

“There’s also women that go out there now for respite. They might live in Barunga but go out there for a weekend or school holidays. We’re also bringing in women from Beswick who aren’t family but just doing respite camps so it’s purely just for women to spend time on Country and step out of the business, the intensity that community life can be.”

In another first, the group have been able to secure five years funding to deliver cultural programs, providing welcome financial security and the opportunity to plan and capitalise on the momentum.



Young Banatjarl Strongbala Wimun Grup members Shikira Henry and Kathleen Andrews at a screen printing workshop for the Barunga Festival

“We’re currently doing our five-year strategic plan. Prior to that, by the time we had done a 12-month business plan we’d already achieved it and moved on to the next task so we’re moving very fast. Our Country as Medicine program now has five years family support services funding and we also have domestic violence prevention funding for Ngalmuka Healing.”

They might be working fast but Pip and the women are mindful of not growing too quickly.

“The next five years is about cementing those programs. Growing is one thing but we’ve talked together about growing while making sure your roots are deep. We want stable programs that keep the women engaged, build capacity, and employ people in roles where they’re most purposeful and where their strengths are.”

Pip shares a few of the group’s more immediate goals.

“We were able to put a new program house in at Banatjarl about 3-4 months ago and hopefully we’ll have that linked up to the electricity before the end of the wet season. And the bush medicine gardens should be flourishing with the new power and infrastructure but we need to replace the 20-year-old irrigation so that’s the next upgrade.

“We also want to work more with the Jawoyn rangers creating caretaker, weeding and maintenance roles, and maintaining the bush medicine and healing garden. That would be something that’s perfectly placed for someone that’s living at Banatjarl.”

Asked to look ahead 5-10 years Pip thinks tourism and social enterprise will be an increasing focus.

“Our key focus has been responding to the needs of the community – effecting change for women, children and families. Now there are employment opportunities coming through tourism – and cultural sharing – and we are able to access Banatjarl for this. We already have school groups coming from around Australia for our cultural camps – this would extend the opportunity Jawoyn call ‘Sharing Country’ to other visitors. It’s about sharing knowledge, cultural connection and an opportunity for people to have conversations together and bridge gaps.

“We could never have done this without reliable infrastructure in place. It’s been a huge changemaker.”

**ILSC investment \$105,136**

## Banatjarl

‘Banatjarl’ is the traditional name for the former King Valley Station. The former cattle station was purchased by the ILSC on behalf of the Jawoyn Association Aboriginal Corporation in 1998 whereupon it was granted to the Banatjarl Aboriginal Corporation. It is located 64 kilometres east of Katherine in Arnhem Land on Jawoyn Country and home to the activities of the Banatjarl Strongbala Wimun Grup. Close to women’s sacred mermaid dreaming it has always been a gathering place for Jawoyn women to connect, share culture, learn from Elders and heal and grow.

Banatjarl Strongbala Wimun Grup members Shikira Henry, Laneise Hall and Pip Gordon with Healing Facilitator Antonia Nangalama Burke (left) at the Ngalmuka Healing Camp on Jawoyn Country, NT  
Image credit: NT Government



Banatjarl Strongbala Wimun Grup Elder Esther Bulumbara and Andrea Andrews teaching children culture at Banatjarl



Seedling delivery for 'Boola Boornap' native tree farm (p 20), Noongar Country, WA

## 26 years supporting positive change

Since our establishment in 1995, \$1.28 billion has been invested through 1,292 projects. This includes 983 management projects and 309 acquisition projects. The acquisition projects have led to the purchase of 279 land interests covering 6.3 million hectares, and four water interests.

As of June 2022, over three quarters (83 per cent) of our land and water acquisitions (234 properties) were under the care and control of an Indigenous title holder.

We have supported Indigenous people to bring products and services to market – this includes ranger and tourism operations (Budj Bim Cultural Landscape p 12; Murujuga p 8; and St George p 10); saltwater and freshwater enterprises such as commercial yabby farming (Dja Dja Wurrung p 12); and abalone (LSACT p 11); commercial art ventures (APYACC p 9 and Tjukurla p 19); and bushfoods (Jinyadii p 18; Yorta Yorta p 23).

We have also supported the preservation of locations with significant ecological and cultural values such as Diana's Basin and Bunya Mountains (p 12).

And we have assisted Indigenous people strengthen culture and share knowledge through interpretive signage installed on Ngurrara Country (p 34); improving knowledge and driving opportunity through sponsorship of events and networks such

as the Private Land Conservation Conference (p 18) bushfoods workshops (p 23); and the bushfoods and botanical alliance (p 18); and the Indigenous Carbon Industry Network (p 20).

Between 2018-2022, ILSC projects have enabled 869 Indigenous people to be employed on average per year, while 2,418 Indigenous people have completed training related to the development of land and water-based opportunities, and sharing cultural knowledge, on average per year between 2011-2022.

Between 2011-2022, on average per year through our projects, the environmental and/or heritage values of over 4 million hectares of Country have been managed; 8,828 Indigenous people have improved access to Country; 405 culturally significant sites have been managed; and 10,949 Indigenous people – and 3,656 non-Indigenous people – have participated in 703 cultural events on Country.

*All data is based on information supplied by proponents for ILSC Project Reports.*



**279**  
properties acquired  
• 6.3 million hectares  
• 4 water interests acquired  
• 83% under Indigenous care and control



**1,292**  
projects  
• 309 acquisition projects  
• 983 management projects



**2,418**  
Indigenous people participated in training\*\*



**869**  
Indigenous people employed\*



**703**  
culturally significant sites managed\*\*



**703**  
cultural events\*\*  
• 10,949 Indigenous participants  
• 3,656 non-Indigenous participants



**8,828**  
Indigenous people with improved access to Country\*\*



**38,497**  
Indigenous people with improved access to accessing culturally safe services



**69**  
majority owned Indigenous enterprises created and/or improved\*\*



**4 million+**  
hectares with environmental or heritage values managed\*\*

\*on average/year, 2018-22  
\*\*on average/year, 2011-22  
Unmarked total, 1995-2022

## Partners in change

We partner with Indigenous groups to deliver projects across the broad diversity of Indigenous Australia and the Torres Strait Islands, from cities to regional and remote areas, and from inland to coastal environments.

In 2021-22, the ILSC contributed over \$22.3 million to 33 projects involving 31 Indigenous applicants.

Nine of these applicants contributed just over \$4 million of their own funding towards their projects.

In addition, 28 third party project partners – including government, NGOs, industry groups, consultancies and private organisations – contributed over \$8.1 million towards projects plus in-kind contributions.

## 31 Indigenous groups funded

*(2021-22 new projects)*

- Aak Puul Ngantam t/a APN Cape York
- APY Art Centre Collective Aboriginal Corporation
- Australian Land Conservation Alliance
- Australian Native Food and Botanicals
- Bigambul Native Title Aboriginal Corporation
- Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation
- Djarindjin Aboriginal Corporation
- First Nations Bushfood & Botanical Alliances Australia Ltd
- Hope Vale Congress Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC
- Indigenous Carbon Industry Network
- Indigenous Desert Alliance
- Jidi Jidi Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC
- Jinyadii Aboriginal Corporation
- Land and Sea Aboriginal Corporation Tasmania
- Moorundi Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service Ltd
- Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation
- Noongar Land Enterprise Group Incorporated
- North West Land Corporation Pty Ltd as trustee for North West Land Trust
- Oak Valley (Maralinga) Inc
- Queensland Murray-Darling Catchment Limited
- Riverside Farm Barossa Pty Ltd
- Southern Aboriginal Corporation
- Taribelang Aboriginal Corporation
- Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation
- The Aboriginal Housing Recovery Centre Limited
- Tjarlirli Art Indigenous Corporation
- Walitj Mia Mia Aboriginal Corporation
- Western Desert Lands Aboriginal Corporation (Jamukurnu-Yapalikunu) RNTBC
- Winda Mara Aboriginal Corporation
- Yanunijarra Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC
- Yorta Yorta Nations Aboriginal Corporation Inc

## 28 project partners (third party)

*(2021-22 new projects)*

- Allens
- Australian National University
- Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
- BHP Billiton
- Commonland Foundation
- COMON Foundation
- Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia
- Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (Vic)
- Development WA
- Gather By
- Government of Tasmania
- Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support
- Lotterywest
- National Indigenous Australians Agency
- New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council
- North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance
- Pilbara Development Commission (Port Hedland office)
- QGC Pty Ltd
- Regional Enterprise Development Institute Ltd
- Schlumberger Australia Pty Ltd
- Stul Family Foundation
- Tourism WA
- Traditional Owners Transition Ventures Pty Ltd t/as Impact 250
- WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
- WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- WA Department Regional Development Agriculture and Food
- Warddeken Land Management
- WA Indigenous Tourism Operators Council Association Inc

Diana's Basin, palawa Country, Tas  
Image credit: Andy Townsend &  
Tasmanian Land Conservancy



# Thank you

In the pages of this publication you have seen the wide diversity of activities that the ILSC supports and the foundations proudly laid for positive change through our acquisition and management projects and our work directly with Indigenous corporations.

Of course that's not all the ILSC does to drive positive change for Indigenous people. We also deliver major strategic projects, operate subsidiaries and have a long history investing in agribusiness.

Please refer to our 2021-22 Annual Report for more highlights.

*Thank you for reading about what we do.  
We hope it inspires ideas and innovation.*

## How we're tracking

So how do we know whether we are making the best use of ILSC resources? Are the activities we fund leading to our four desired long-term outcomes and positive change for Indigenous Australians?

In 2021 we introduced a new evaluation approach where we consider what 'good value for money' looks like from four perspectives: efficiency, effectiveness, equity and economy.

Considering these perspectives help us select the best projects and activities in which to invest. And we can use them to evaluate whether those projects are performing as expected.

### OF OUR ACTIVE PROJECTS IN 2021-22:

#### Efficiency

- **70%** of planned activities were delivered or exceeded across all projects
- **88%** of projects were rated 'satisfactory' or higher for delivering planned activities when context was also considered
- **87%** of projects were rated 'satisfactory' or higher for adaptability for project changes.

#### Effectiveness

- **87%** of projects were rated 'satisfactory' or higher for effectiveness, meaning that project activities were leading to desired outcomes and objectives.

#### Equity

- **85%** of projects were rated 'satisfactory' or higher for equity: a reasonable proportion of the group and/or those within the Indigenous community at extra disadvantage (eg women, young people, elderly, disabled, and others) are benefitting from project activities.

Together these results reflect the ILSC's own performance on **economy**: the extent to which we are choosing the right investments that contribute to positive change for Indigenous Australians.

For more information on our 'Value or Money' evaluation approach see the Annual Report and ILSC Performance Framework.

[www.ilsc.gov.au](http://www.ilsc.gov.au)



QMDCL rangers William, Sunny and Peter celebrate their new home base in St George, Qld



**Australian Government**  
**Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation**



**The ILSC GROUP**

**PEOPLE. COUNTRY. OPPORTUNITY.**



### **Our Board and Leadership**

**Pictured L-R:** David Silcock (Executive Director Corporate), Trevor Edmund (Group General Counsel), Kristy Masella (Director), Claire Filson (Deputy Chair), Joe Morrison (CEO), Roy Ah See (Director), Kate Healy (Director), Ian Hamm (Chair), Matt Salmon (Chief Operating Officer) **Absent:** Nigel Browne (Director) and Gail Reynolds-Adamson (Director)

**Uluru, Anangu Pitjantjatjara Country, NT**

Established in 1995 under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act*, we provide for the contemporary and future land needs of Indigenous people, particularly those unlikely to benefit from Native Title or Land Rights. We work with our Indigenous partners to grow their economic, environmental, cultural and social capital by supporting their acquisition and management of land and water. In redressing dispossession, we provide for a more prosperous and culturally centred future for Indigenous people.



[www.ilsc.gov.au](http://www.ilsc.gov.au)  
**FREECALL 1800 818 490**

The Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation is a Commonwealth entity under the  
*Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*