



Australian Government

Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation



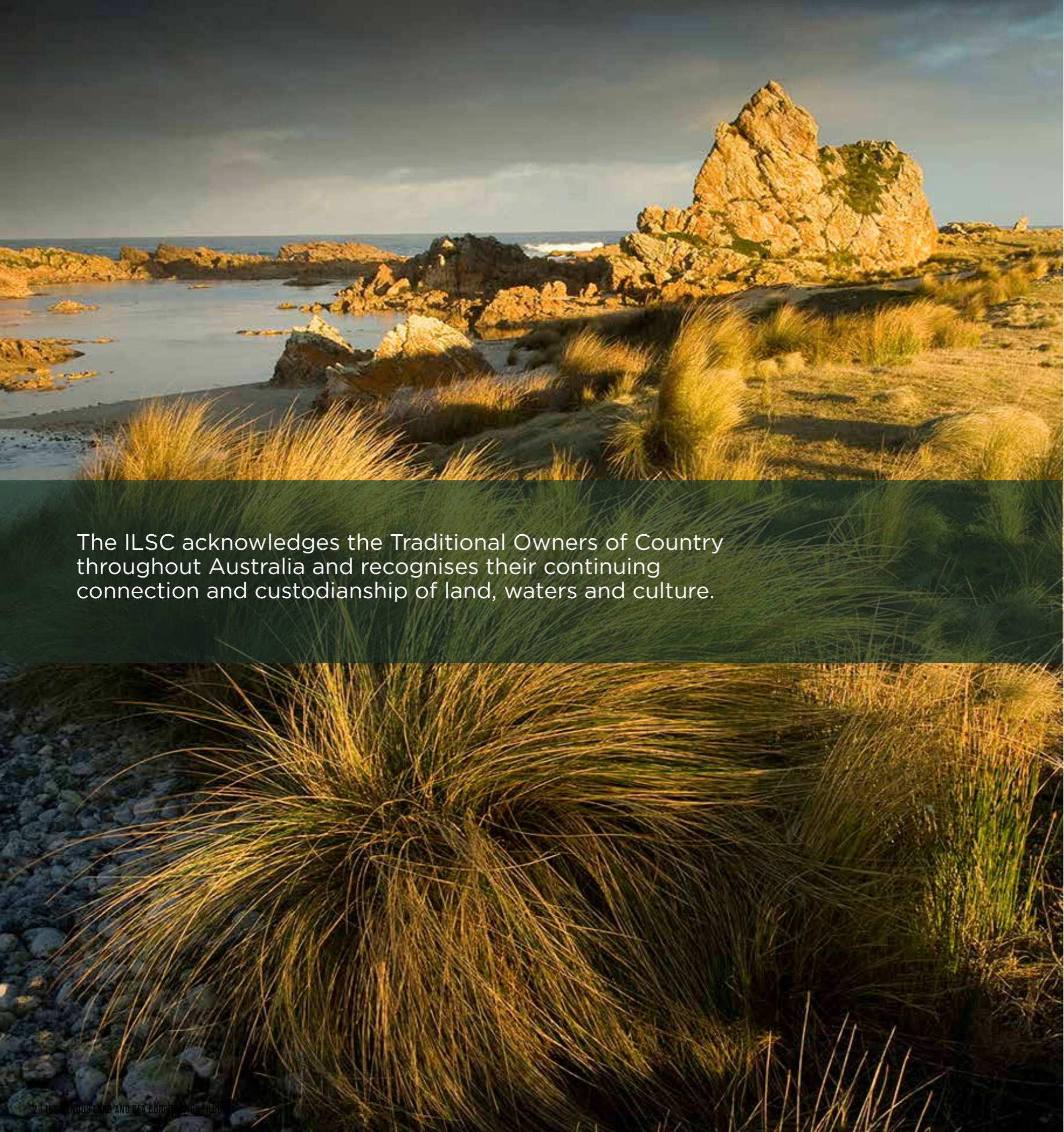
The **ILSC GROUP**

PEOPLE. COUNTRY. OPPORTUNITY.

Our Country Our Future

PROGRAM GUIDELINES





The ILSC acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection and custodianship of land, waters and culture.

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What is the ILSC?

The Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC) is established to provide economic, environmental, social or cultural benefits for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. The ILSC provides these benefits through its two functions:

- a) **Assisting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to purchase land and water-related rights; and**
- b) **Assisting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to manage Indigenous-held land and water-related rights.**

We buy and grant 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 ROLE

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

We provide advice and capability support: supporting Indigenous landholders 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 OPERATIONS

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

OUR IMPACT

These guidelines will help you decide whether *Our Country Our Future* is a good fit for you and your project.



What is *Our Country Our Future*?

Our Country Our Future is the ILSC's national funding program. It operates across urban, regional and remote areas—it doesn't matter where in Australia you live. Through *Our Country Our Future*, the ILSC can provide a wide range of assistance to those proposing projects: from brokering and developing partnerships, to facilitating and coordinating support, to providing funding assistance.

Our Country Our Future has five broad focus areas which are considered to present greater opportunities for Indigenous Australians or where Indigenous landholders may have a competitive advantage:



Conservation/Healthy Country

Supporting cultural and environmental protection and the development of enterprises based on the delivery of eco-system services.



Urban Investment

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



Tourism

Supporting the development of land, salt and fresh water country based cultural and eco-tourism operations across the Indigenous Estate.



Niche Indigenous Products

Helping to build industries based on Australian Indigenous flora and fauna and introduced species, leveraging traditional practices and cultural knowledge to grow consumer interest in these products.



Agribusiness

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

The ILSC offers three broad areas of assistance, the following table sets out what outcomes should be achieved by and for Indigenous people over time as a result of ILSC funding and other support. This can be used as a broad guide to determine whether or not your project can benefit from what the ILSC offers, and whether or not it is aligned to what the ILSC is aiming to achieve.

How we help you	What you want to do	Outcomes we want to work towards
<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Invest in projects Funding for purchasing, managing, and/or developing land or water-related interests> Provide advice and capability support Support landowners with information, knowledge, training, systems to develop and deliver projects> Connect people Facilitate, advocate, negotiate to develop partnerships, markets, other opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Purchase a land or water-related interest> Commence or expand a land or water-based enterprise> Undertake planning and/or feasibility assessment> Build or upgrade infrastructure, plant or equipment> Conduct on-ground management activities to maintain or improve the condition of country (land, water, biodiversity, cultural heritage)> Address urgent health and safety issues on country (people, livestock, environment)> Enable or improve access to country with cultural significance> Maintain, support and revitalise culture> Develop opportunities for formal and informal training and/or employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Benefits are being generated by and for Indigenous people from the ownership and management of country> Indigenous people have improved individual and group capability, stronger landholding organisations and practises, and broader networks> Indigenous people are growing the value and productivity of country> Indigenous people are sustainably owning and managing country> Indigenous people are preserving and protecting culture through reconnection with country> Indigenous people are driving and influencing policy and opportunity for country

What Our Country Our Future will not support

- Our Country Our Future will not fund:**
- > Activities that do not align with its statutory purposes, or do not generate any benefits for Indigenous people
 - > Activities that are the responsibility of another agency
 - > Any ongoing service delivery/program costs
 - > Any ongoing operational costs such as insurance, rates, power, water, etc.
 - > Administration/sitting fees
 - > Livestock (if applicable)

This list is not exhaustive. For further detail please contact your ILSC office.

Are you eligible?

To partner with the ILSC, you must be able to answer ‘yes’ to the following:

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Does your project involve the acquisition OR management of land and/or water-related interests?

✓

For projects that involve: **ACQUISITION**

Are you an incorporated entity (or in the process of becoming incorporated) and are you Indigenous-controlled¹?

✓

For projects that involve: **MANAGEMENT**

Are you one of the following:

- an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander holder of land or a water-related right²
- an incorporated entity
- an organisation interested in investing in Indigenous-held land or waters?

AND

Does your project have the support of the Indigenous land/water holders and have they provided their consent for its use?

✓

Will Indigenous people enjoy access, opportunities and benefits from land or waters as a result of your project?

✓

Are you compliant with your incorporating legislation and any agreements you have with the ILSC?

✓

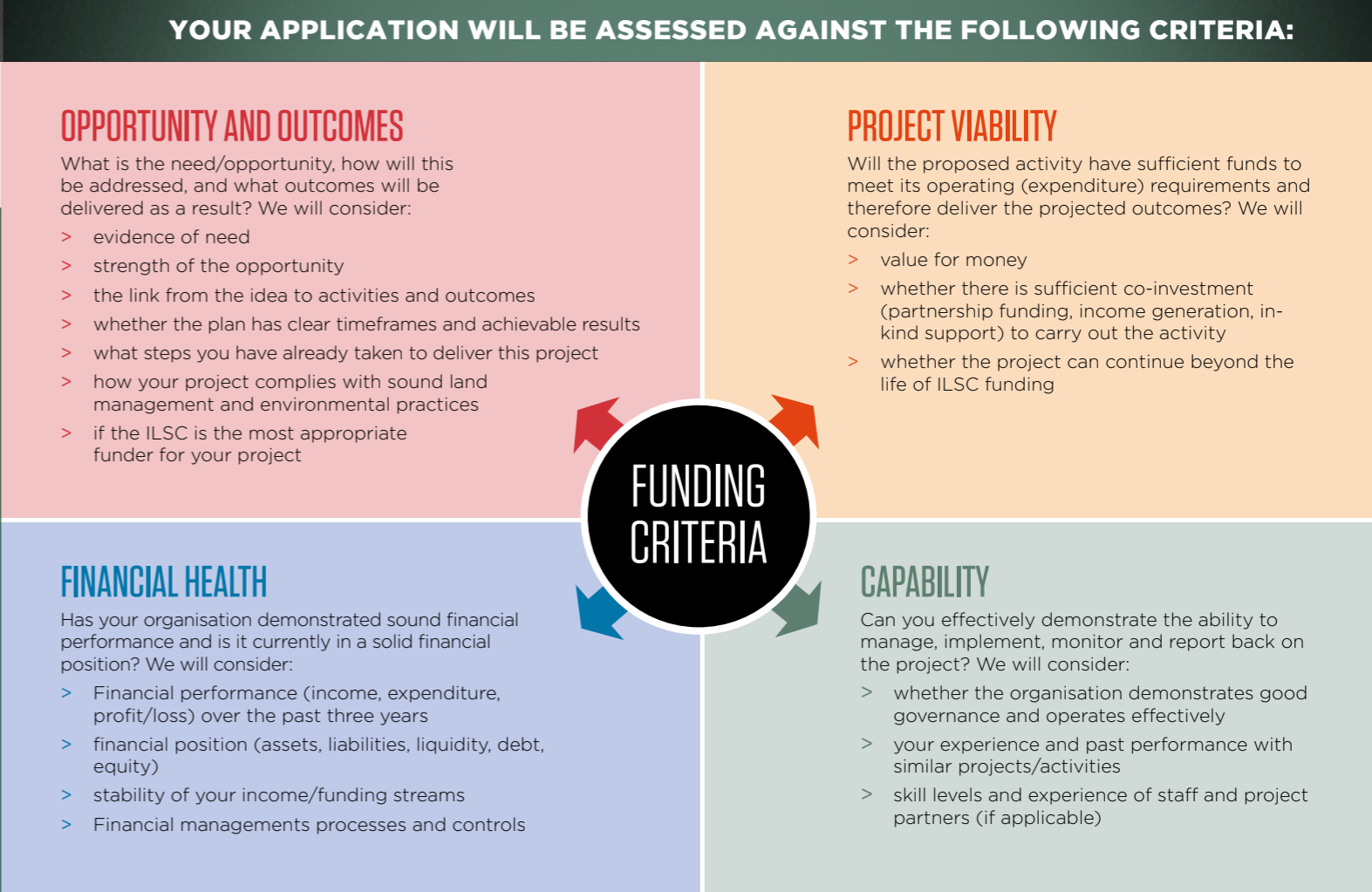
¹ In accordance with the ATSI Act 4B an organisation is **Indigenous-controlled** if:

- It is incorporated under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*, and/or
- Indigenous people make up the majority of the organisation’s membership and of the membership of its board or governing committee.

² The ILSC can only fund management projects where there is a controlling interest, by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island organisation or person. Interests can include freehold and leasehold titles, management agreements and native title determined land.

How we assess applications

Our Country Our Future is a competitive funding program. This means your project will be assessed objectively against each of the criteria set out below, **and** against other project proposals received by the ILSC. This process ensures that the ILSC invests its funds as effectively as possible, delivering the highest potential outcomes to Indigenous Australians.



How we prioritise applications

Our Country Our Future is a competitive program with a fixed budget, therefore all applications are assessed against each other. In addition to our standard assessment criteria above, our National Assessment Panel will also assess applications against the following key priority factors:

Priority factors	The ILSC will prioritise projects that demonstrate:
OUTCOMES	The capacity to deliver sustained and/or scalable outcomes beyond ILSC funding - <i>strengthening the outcomes for Indigenous people</i>
LEVERAGED FUNDING	Secured partnership funding and co-investment (including your contribution, in-kind or cash) - <i>maximising value for money</i>
EQUITY*	Delivery of outcomes across geographic regions, Our Country Our Future focus areas and individual proponents that the ILSC has historically underinvested in - <i>expanding support to the Indigenous Estate</i>

*The ILSC will take into consideration the amount of funding previously received by a given proponent and may decline applications on this basis.



Pipi harvesting on Ngarrindjeri country, Coorong SA. Image supplied by Kuti Co.

How to apply

Our Country Our Future is flexible, so you can apply at any time. If you are interested in submitting an application, follow the steps below.

Application process



Ready to apply?

Contact the ILSC to discuss your proposal, how we can assist in the completion of your application and whether the ILSC can provide advice on the development of your project. Once your eligibility is determined, the ILSC will provide you with an Our Country Our Future application pack.



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Our commitment to you - what you can expect from us?

DURING THE APPLICATION AND ASSESSMENT PROCESS YOU CAN EXPECT THE FOLLOWING FROM THE ILSC:

- > **A partnership approach to work with you to develop and submit your application**
- > **Clear and transparent communication regarding our advice and the application process so you understand what is required at each step**
- > **Timely information and follow up:**
 - Once an application is received, we will keep in contact to let you know how your application is proceeding.
 - We will give you an opportunity to clarify any concerns or questions raised if your application is at risk of not being funded.
 - If your application is unsuccessful, we will provide you with specific feedback to help you understand why the application was not approved.

What we expect from you?

DURING THE APPLICATION AND ASSESSMENT PROCESS WE EXPECT:

- > **Your application form to be submitted in full** with all necessary attachments and supporting documentation. Please be aware that failure to provide this will delay the assessment of your application and may lead to your application not being considered further.
- > **Timely provision of additional documentation** in order for the ILSC to make an informed and efficient assessment. The ILSC is committed to supporting partners to successfully deliver on projects. In order to ensure this, we undertake a high standard of commercial level Due Diligence. Additional documentation that we may request includes:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">> A Business/Feasibility Plan, including detailed Financial forecasts> Evidence of formal project partnership arrangements> Evidence of financial/in-kind support> A Property Management Plan for Acquisition projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> For capital works/infrastructure projects:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- A Quantity Surveyor report- Detailed drawings- Cost estimates- Asset lifecycle management plans
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- > During the application process we will discuss with you which documents will be required/are relevant for your project or if you may need support to fund some of these items.
- > During the assessment process the ILSC reserves the right to discontinue applications where requested information is not forthcoming.

IN ADDITION, YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES WILL INCLUDE:

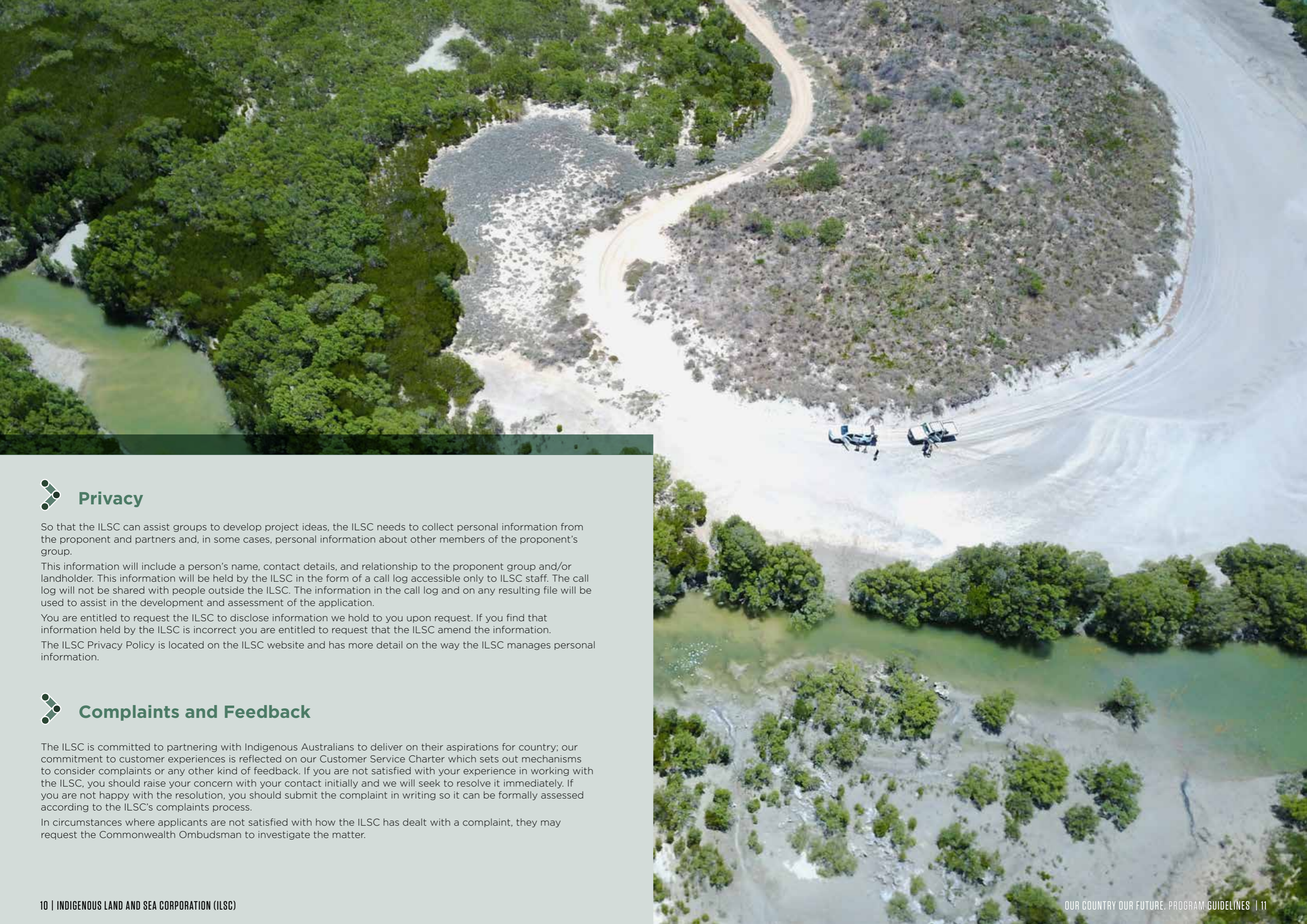
For MANAGEMENT of land and water-related rights:

1. Entering into a **contract** that may include a **work plan** describing how and when the funding and support will be provided and how the project will be implemented.
2. Carrying out the **project activities** as agreed in the contract and, where applicable, the work plan.
3. Submitting **Progress Reports** to demonstrate how you are completing contracted activities, working towards intended outcomes and using ILSC funds.

For ACQUISITION of land and water-related rights:

1. Being **incorporated** and able to sign a lease and/or be granted the property or water-related rights. Your group must be an **Indigenous-controlled** corporation, permitted to hold assets according to its constitution or rules of incorporation.
2. The ILSC will be responsible for any purchase negotiations. We will work with you to define an agreed strategy, but please do not contact the vendor during purchase negotiations.
3. **Implementing the work plan** agreed with the ILSC including all reporting requirements. Half yearly **Progress Reports** will be required throughout an agreed time period depending on the project.
4. Developing a **Property Management Plan** within the first six months of any lease.
5. Where appropriate, **ensure access** to any culturally significant sites to Indigenous people with traditional links to the property.
6. Signing the ILSC's standard **Deed of Grant** in order to be granted the property or water-related rights.

For all projects, the ILSC may also conduct field visits to inspect the progress of your project and verify information given to the ILSC in Progress Reports.



Privacy

So that the ILSC can assist groups to develop project ideas, the ILSC needs to collect personal information from the proponent and partners and, in some cases, personal information about other members of the proponent's group.

This information will include a person's name, contact details, and relationship to the proponent group and/or landholder. This information will be held by the ILSC in the form of a call log accessible only to ILSC staff. The call log will not be shared with people outside the ILSC. The information in the call log and on any resulting file will be used to assist in the development and assessment of the application.

You are entitled to request the ILSC to disclose information we hold to you upon request. If you find that information held by the ILSC is incorrect you are entitled to request that the ILSC amend the information.

The ILSC Privacy Policy is located on the ILSC website and has more detail on the way the ILSC manages personal information.



Complaints and Feedback

The ILSC is committed to partnering with Indigenous Australians to deliver on their aspirations for country; our commitment to customer experiences is reflected on our Customer Service Charter which sets out mechanisms to consider complaints or any other kind of feedback. If you are not satisfied with your experience in working with the ILSC, you should raise your concern with your contact initially and we will seek to resolve it immediately. If you are not happy with the resolution, you should submit the complaint in writing so it can be formally assessed according to the ILSC's complaints process.

In circumstances where applicants are not satisfied with how the ILSC has dealt with a complaint, they may request the Commonwealth Ombudsman to investigate the matter.



Australian Government

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The ILSC GROUP

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