

What is the ILC?



Australian Government Indigenous Land Corporation

What is the INDIGENOUS LAND CORPORATION?

The Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) is a Commonwealth statutory authority with national responsibilities to assist Indigenous peoples to acquire land and to manage Indigenous-held land. The ILC commenced operation on 1 June 1995.

The ILC has a seven-member board, appointed by the Minister for Indigenous Affairs. The Chairperson and at least four other members of the Board must be Indigenous. The ILC Board makes all policy and land acquisition decisions.

What the ILC does

The ILC's two main functions are to assist Indigenous people to acquire land and to manage Indigenous-held land to achieve cultural, social, environmental and economic benefits for themselves and future generations. The ILC has developed national and regional Indigenous land strategies to guide its activities. These documents are available from the ILC or can be downloaded from the ILC's web site at: <http://www.ilc.gov.au>.

What is the Land Account?

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Account (also referred to as the Land Account) is a public trust account, which was established to provide an ongoing source of funds to the ILC. The ILC is the "operational arm" of the Land Account, but the two are administratively quite separate.

Why were the Land Account and the ILC established?

In 1993 the Australian Government announced its response to the decision of the High Court of Australia in the Mabo case in 1992, which first recognised native title in Australia and the prior ownership of land by Indigenous people.

The response included:

- Enactment of native title legislation to recognise and protect native title.
- Establishment of a land account to complement native title and assist dispossessed Indigenous people to acquire and manage their land.

The Government recognised that many Indigenous Australians may not regain control of land through the Native Title Act (NTA), and the Land Account was created to complement the NTA. *The Land Fund and Indigenous Land Corporation (ATSIC amendment) Act 1995* added a new part to the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989*, establishing the Land Account and the ILC.

The Land Account and the ILC are now governed by Part 4A of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005*.

What are the Funding Arrangements for the Land Account and the ILC?

The Land Account was established by a fixed annual allocation from the Commonwealth over ten years to 30 June 2004. Each year \$121 million (indexed) was allocated to the Account. Approximately two thirds of this amount is retained in the Account and invested. The balance was allocated to the ILC to fund its ongoing activities.

At 30 June 2004 the Land Account was valued at approximately A\$1.4 billion. Government allocations to the Land Account have ceased, but the Land Account will continue to earn investment income to fund the work of the ILC. The ILC does not control the Land Account. The Australian Government Minister for Families Community Services and Indigenous Affairs is responsible for its administration.

Land Acquisition and Land Management

The ILC's land acquisition and land management policies are detailed in the National Indigenous Land Strategy and the Program Guidelines. The ILC produces Regional Indigenous Land Strategies for each State and the Northern Territory. The ACT is incorporated in the NSW RILS.

Since its inception the ILC has purchased land in each State and the Northern Territory, totalling over 170 properties.

The ILC may discharge its land management functions on Indigenous-held land or on land that it acquires, providing the activities consist of, or relate to, the managed use, care or improvement of land.

The land management program supports group based planning, enterprise development and regional development, while in-house, the ILC undertakes co-ordination and research activities to ensure maximum benefit for Indigenous people from land acquisition and land management.

Application forms and details of each program's requirements are available from the ILC or on the ILC web site. Applications can be lodged at any time.

ILC OFFICES

The ILC Head Office is located in Adelaide and accommodates Finance, Policy and Research, Capacity Development, HR, Information and Communications Technology and Legal services. The Canberra office accommodates the Office of the General Manager and the Business Planning Directorate. Land acquisition and land management staff are based at the ILC's three divisional offices, located in Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth.

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