

INDIGENOUS LAND CORPORATION

5 March 2003

Professor Peter Newman
Sustainability Policy Unit
Department of Premier and Cabinet
15th Floor, 197 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Mr Newman

Response to Invitation to Comment on Focus on the Future: The Western Australian State Sustainability Strategy: Consultation Draft

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to *Focus on the Future: The Western Australian State Sustainability Strategy: Consultation Draft*.

The Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) came into being on 1 June 1995 with the commencement of the *Land Fund and Indigenous Land Corporation (ATSIC Amendment) Act 1995*. It is a statutory authority established by the Commonwealth to assist Indigenous people to acquire and manage land in a sustainable way to provide culture, social, environmental and/or economic benefits.

The ILC has two functions:

- Land management on Indigenous held land, and
- Land acquisition

Cultural, Social, Environmental and Economic Outcomes of Activities

The ILC's legislative purpose is to provide cultural, social, environmental or economic benefits for Indigenous people through its land acquisition and land management activities. The ILC's land acquisition function administers four programs (cultural, social, environmental or economic) to assist Indigenous people to acquire land and to be able to enjoy the four categories of assistance. The vision of the land acquisition function is to address dispossession and ensure that Indigenous people derive culture, social, environmental or economic benefits through land acquisition.

The land management function parallels the four program streams of the land acquisition function. The land management vision is that Indigenous landholders enjoy long-term and sustainable cultural, social, environmental or economic benefits from their land through land management support.

Indigenous Regional Sustainability Strategies

This proposed initiative has parallels with ILC legislative responsibilities and approaches under its land acquisition and land management programs. The ILC is required to prepare and review its National Indigenous Land Strategy (NILS) and Regional Indigenous Land Strategies (RILS).

Regional planning is a mechanism used by the ILC to assist in the development of plans at a local level and then review the NILS and RILS. This mechanism ensures an effective and coordinated strategic response by the ILC to Indigenous land needs and issues. In partnership with local and regional Indigenous organisations, it strategically identifies and assists in development of actions to address and integrate land acquisition, land management and environmental issues with the needs of Indigenous communities.

As part of the land acquisition function, the ILC developed the Land Needs Planning Process (LNPP) to facilitate needs planning and to provide support for community based planning. LNPP is a national process that enables local Indigenous groups and regional organisations to determine their land needs and take part in the ILC's long-term planning for strategic land acquisition.

The ILC land management program also supports regional approaches through its regional development strategic initiative. The ILC will contribute to regional development processes to ensure that cultural, social, environmental or economic benefits accrue to local Indigenous landholders.

Instigate a Pilot Project for a State Funded Aboriginal Country Management Program.

The ILC would be most interested in pursuing discussions with regard to the Aboriginal Country Management Program. The ILC operates its own land management program, which is required to be in addition to programs of other agencies. The ILC is committed to providing a professional and focused coordination role, so that it can assist Indigenous landowners to gain access to the resources, advice and expertise required to manage their land in a sustainable way.

The ILC vision for the land management program is that the Indigenous landholders enjoy long-term and sustainable cultural, social, environmental or economic benefits from their land through land management support. 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 and in which land is the focus rather than simply the location of the activity.

Under land management program the ILC can provide support under the strategic initiatives:

- Enterprise Development – The ILC will assist groups develop viable and sustainable enterprises on their land; and
- Regional Development – The ILC will contribute to regional development processes to ensure that benefits accrue to local Indigenous landowners.

The following projects provide an indication of our approach to addressing Indigenous land management issues in Western Australia.

The Pastoral Management Support Services Program

The Pastoral Management Support Services Program is an agreement between the ILC and the WA Department of Agriculture. It involves the provision of focused extension services to Aboriginal pastoralists in the Kimberley region with four categories of support:

- Technical support;
- Intensive management support;
- Mustering support; and

- Group extension and training.

Desired outcomes are the strengthening of the management, viability and output of Aboriginal pastoral enterprises in the Kimberley, and through this, the generation of a range of economic and social benefits to landholding communities.

The Goldfields Indigenous Primary Producers Aboriginal Corporation (GIPPAC)

Indigenous people involved in primary production in the Goldfields and Esperance regions have come together to form the Goldfields Indigenous Primary Producers Aboriginal Corporation (GIPPAC) “to collectively provide leadership in policy and directions for Indigenous pastoralists and farmers”.

The need for training on the operation and management as been identified as a key issue by the members of the GIPPAC Steering Committee. A training needs analysis workshop has been developed by the Centre for the Management of Arid Environments, whose core partners are Curtin University of Technology and the WA Department of Agriculture. The workshop was developed in consultation with WA FarmBis and has the support of FarmBis and ILC funding.

Further Discussion

The ILC notes the proposed Indigenous Regional Sustainability Strategies Agreement aimed at promoting and achieving sustainability for Indigenous communities and would be happy to pursue discussions.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to respond to *Focus on the Future: The Western Australian State Sustainability Strategy: Consultation Draft*. Should you have any queries or wish to discuss this further, please contact Allan Padgett, Manager of the ILC's Western Divisional Office, on 08 9420 6300 in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

WILLIAM JOHNSTONE

Acting General Manager