



17 April 2018

Ms Ann Palmer
Secretary
Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100, Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
By e-mail: fpa.sen@aph.gov.au

IBA reference: D18/53400

Dear Ms Palmer

Inquiry into the provisions of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Amendment (Indigenous Land Corporation) Bill 2018; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land and Sea Future Fund Bill 2018; and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land and Sea Future Fund (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2018

Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) welcomes the opportunity to provide a response to the Inquiry into the provisions of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Amendment (Indigenous Land Corporation) Bill 2018; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land and Sea Future Fund Bill 2018; and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land and Sea Future Fund (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2018 (**the Bills**).

About IBA

IBA is an independent Commonwealth Statutory Authority operating within the portfolio of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

IBA was created to assist and enhance the economic development opportunities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across Australia.

IBA's purpose and functions are set out in the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (the ATSI Act) which requires IBA to accumulate and use a substantial capital asset base for the benefit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and to engage in commercial activities to promote self-management and economic self-sufficiency.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Amendment (Indigenous Land Corporation) Bill 2018; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land and Sea Future Fund Bill 2018; and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land and Sea Future Fund (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2018

IBA and the ILC occupy different places on the overall economic development spectrum of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, but nonetheless, collaborate regularly and where possible to enhance outcomes and benefits with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

IBA supports the reforms proposed in the Bills and acknowledges the strong contribution made by the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander economic development.

The important role the ILC plays, in acquiring and managing land has proven to facilitate and assist in creating employment and training opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.

IBA also acknowledges the importance of the Land Account as a sustainable business practice providing for future generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Based on IBA's ongoing collaboration with the ILC, we are of the view that the ILC is performing strongly in supporting the economic development aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The proposed suite of reforms contained in the Bills are a key part of achieving greater results and subject to this inquiry which will transfer management of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Account (Land Account) to the Future Fund Agency and Board of Guardians, it will also clarify that the ILC is able to invest in water-based projects.

In supporting the suite of reforms in the Bills, IBA notes that:

1. Developments in native title case law since the ILC was established make it necessary to provide the ability for the ILC to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to obtain economic, environmental, social or cultural benefits from waters;
2. In relation to investigating the various options for ensuring the sustainability of the Land Account, the ILC engaged a "Land Account Expert Advisory Panel", who considered the Future Fund Management Agency the most appropriate investment manager for the Land Account funds; and
3. The ILC undertook comprehensive consultations about the proposed amendments with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups and communities with a clear majority of participants supporting the changes.

Yours sincerely



Rajiv Viswanathan
Chief Executive Officer