



CAPE YORK LAND COUNCIL
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Contact: Shannon Burns

ICN 1163
ABN 22 965 382 705

32 Florence Street
PO Box 2496
CAIRNS QLD 4870
Phone (07) 4053 9222
Fax (07) 4051 0097

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Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

By email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Re: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Amendment (A Stronger Land Account) Bill 2014 (the Bill)

Cape York Land Council (CYLC) is the Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) for the Cape York region and in this role, fulfils statutory functions under the *Native Title Act 1993* such as supporting applications for the determination of native title and developing land use agreements. In addition to performing NTRB statutory functions, CYLC also performs broader Land Council functions including post-determination support for native title holders, and support for Aboriginal land holders with their home ownership and economic development aspirations.

CYLC generally supports the reforms proposed in the Bill. We agree that the Land Account should be strengthened and protected, and that it should only be used for land-related purposes.

However, we believe that improvements can be made to the form and delivery of the functions that ILC performs. In that regard, we **attach** a copy of our submissions in relation to the review into Indigenous Business Australia and the Indigenous Land Corporation dated 24 January 2014.

We are particularly concerned that the ILC should:-

1. invest in programs to develop the capacity of Land Trusts, Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate and other Aboriginal land holding corporations, so that they can competently hold and manage their interests in land;
2. develop more targeted strategies to support business development in remote locations where land is communally held by Aboriginal entities; and
3. provide assistance to enable Indigenous Australians in remote locations to have the same opportunity for home ownership as other Australians.

We submit that these outcomes can still be achieved within the framework of the amendments proposed in the Bill.

We note that our submissions of 24 January 2014 indicate our view that the Boards of the ILC and the IBC should be fully integrated. However, we acknowledge the findings of the Ernst and Young report dated 17 February 2014, and the potential consequences of a merger identified in the report. We agree that a more formal collaboration between the two entities could provide the necessary integration of operations, including to ensure that opportunities are identified and pursued. Further consideration and consultation with stakeholders about the options identified is clearly necessary.

If there are any queries or you wish to discuss any aspect of this submission, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Peter Callaghan
CEO
Cape York land Council