



CENTRAL DESERT NATIVE TITLE SERVICES

Our ref: 1401.1.1
Your ref:

October 2, 2014

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

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

Dear Secretary

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

Central Desert Native Title Services Ltd (Central Desert) welcomes the inquiry into the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Amendment (A Stronger Land Account) Bill 2014 (Bill) and the opportunity to make a submission on the Bill.

Central Desert believes resolutely in the principles of:

- a strong Land Account, and
- decision-making in relation to the Land Account being in Indigenous hands and independent of government.

Central Desert supports the introduction of a clearer purpose for the Land Account in the Act, and one that specifies that the Land Account is a compensatory mechanism in acknowledgement of past injustices and dispossession of traditional lands and acknowledging the special relationship Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders have with their lands. Central Desert supports provisions aimed at strengthening the governance and accountability measures for the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC). Central Desert supports the intention to strengthen the role for Indigenous people in the control of the ILC and the Land Account and we support the strengthening of the Land Account and the capacity to allow the Land Account to continue to grow for the benefit of future generations.

Central Desert urges the Committee to recommend to the Senate and the Parliament that the Bill be adopted in its entirety.

Yours sincerely

IAN RAWLINGS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Att: