



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Inquiry into rural skills training and research

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 5 December 2005

Chair: Alby Schultz MP
Deputy Chair: Hon Dick Adams

Indigenous Land Corporation addresses rural skills inquiry

Committee Public Hearing in Parliament House, Canberra - 7 December 2005

The **Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC)** will appear before the House of Representatives Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Committee on Wednesday (7 December) in relation to its inquiry into rural skills training and research.

The public hearing will take place **from 5.00 pm in Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra.**

The ILC's submission (no. 50 on the committee website) points to complex issues that need to be addressed in appropriate training, education and extension packages for Indigenous land owners. These include:

- remote location of many groups who require training and education;
- limited numbers of students;
- limited number of skilled trainers who are also able to deliver programs in a culturally appropriate manner;
- English is a second or third language of some Indigenous land owners;
- need of many indigenous students to stay in their local area;
- lack of access to resources including equipment required for training purposes, computers, the internet and local libraries; and,
- ownership of Indigenous land through community organisation, therefore different governance and managerial regimes.

The committee chair, Alby Schultz (Member for Hume, NSW), said that "the Committee feels that it is important to hear first hand about the particular issues that affect Indigenous Australians when accessing training in rural areas. We are also particularly interested in hearing about some of the initiatives that the Indigenous Land Corporation have put in place to train and encourage Indigenous Australian in rural industries."

Further details about the inquiry, including terms of reference and submissions, can be obtained from the committee's website at:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/primind/ruralskills/> or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4500 or emailing Aff.reps@aph.gov.au.

For media comment: please contact the committee chair, Alby Schultz MP, on (02) 6277 4386 or email Alby.Schultz.MP@aph.gov.au.

For more information: please contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4500.