

Indigenous Land Corporation
Submission to the Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia

Introduction

The Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) is pleased to make the following submission to the Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia. Based on the ILC's experience working with Indigenous landholders in northern Australia for almost 20 years, this submission focuses on the agricultural, horticultural and tourism industries, and the significant contribution and potential for growth inherent in the Indigenous estate. Further, the ILC submits that protection of the unique environmental and cultural values of northern Australia is critical for the growth in economic performance of the north to be sustainable. The ILC asserts that Indigenous people are central in every phase of northern development strategies, as knowledgeable investors and beneficiaries of development. This submission makes recommendations regarding investment in social and economic infrastructure to reduce impediments to growth and raises issues for consideration in the establishment of an environment conducive to increased Indigenous participation in the regional economy.

Summary remarks

The Indigenous estate comprises more than 25%¹ of the Australian landmass above the Tropic of Capricorn and is expanding. It follows that the productivity of the Indigenous estate is a critical driver of the economic future of the region. The protection of the cultural and environmental values of the Indigenous estate in northern Australia is critical to ensuring the sustainability of that future.

Indigenous people represent a significant and rapidly increasing proportion of the population north of the Tropic of Capricorn. Population figures for the northern Savanna region (the most populace of the northern landscapes) suggest that Indigenous people will represent 25.7% of the savanna population by 2021.² Ensuring the effective participation of Indigenous people in the planning and implementation of any northern development framework is therefore essential in realising the potential of northern Australia to contribute to the economic development of the nation.

The ILC works extensively with Indigenous landholders to expand and develop the Indigenous estate in northern Australia. Through close collaboration with landholding Indigenous corporations and communities, the ILC has built a sound understanding of the opportunities presented in northern Australia. This submission describes our current commitments to developing Indigenous-held land, our significant contribution to Indigenous enterprise development, training and employment and therefore economic development more broadly, within selected land-based industries across the north of Australia. It also highlights the opportunities and impediments we experience north of the tropic of Capricorn.

¹ See IHL map; as at 2000, this figure does not account for ILC acquisitions, nor for positive determinations of native title conferring landholder interests post 2000.

² <http://www.savanna.org.au/all/economic.html>

Opportunities

- Genuine engagement of Indigenous people in the development of northern Australia
- Expanding Indigenous agricultural industries
- Harnessing export potential
- Expansion of horticultural industries
- Harnessing economic potential of emerging markets
- Expanding the Indigenous tourism industry

Impediments

- Social infrastructure
- Road infrastructure
- Sea based transport
- Land tenure arrangements
- Regional training and employment for building leadership
- Regional labour market disincentives

The ILC has participated in the North Australian Indigenous Experts Forum on Sustainable Economic Development since 2012. The forum provides advice to the Northern Australian Ministerial Forum on key strategic policy interests relevant to Indigenous people's aspirations for sustainable development. The Second Forum report "*An Indigenous Prospectus for participating in the sustainable development of north Australia, North Australian Indigenous Experts Forum on Sustainable Economic Development, Second Forum Report Kakadu National Park, Northern Territory, 30 April – 2nd May 2013*"³ discusses and makes recommendations about Indigenous interests and engagement in economic development in north Australia. Many of these are supported in this submission.

About the ILC

The ILC is an independent statutory authority of the Australian Government that assists Indigenous Australians to acquire land, and manage Indigenous-held land, 'so as to provide economic, environmental, social or cultural benefits for Aboriginal persons and Torres Strait Islanders'. Established under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act (Commonwealth) 2005*, the ILC has two programs to support its purpose – Land Acquisition and Land Management. The ILC has a national focus, and is not purely focused on northern or remote Australia.

ILC Commitment to the development of Indigenous-held Land across the north of Australia

Since its inception in 1995, the ILC has acquired properties totalling over 4 million hectares, and contributed to bringing additional existing Indigenous-held land into production, across northern Australia. (See figure A). The acquisitions have ranged across remote pastoral properties, urban commercial properties and significant cultural properties. The ILC works with Indigenous landholders to assist in developing viable and sustainable landholdings through its land management function. Responding to landholder aspirations, the ILC has effectively partnered with Indigenous landowners, industry and governments to deliver a range of land-based projects bringing property management planning, infrastructure, plant and equipment and established complex multi-property

³ <http://nailsma.org.au/sites/default/files/publications/NAIEF%20nd%20Forum%20Report%20-%20web.pdf#overlay-context=user>

and regional enterprises (such as the Indigenous Pastoral Program in the NT and the Indigenous Landholding Service in WA). During the period from 2008 to 2014 the ILC has funded multi-site projects encompassing training, planning, property management planning and complex regional land management projects at a cost of more than \$30M. Aboriginal corporations across the region have been assisted with funding for property based land management projects, the geographical spread of which is found at figure B. Additionally, the ILC currently owns and operates 13 pastoral businesses in northern Australia as illustrated in the discussion of the agricultural industry below.

1.

• **Genuine engagement of Indigenous People in development in the development of Northern Australia**

The ILC supports the work of the North Australian Indigenous Experts Forum on Sustainable Economic Development and agrees that it is critical that Indigenous people are at the forefront of planning and implementation of economic development strategies for the north of Australia. Indigenous people hold rights and interests in the north as leaseholders, landowners, and traditional owners with cultural and spiritual connections and obligations to the land. The ILC supports the Forum's vision for free, prior and informed consent as a basis of engagement with Indigenous peoples as a cornerstone of the sustainable economic development of northern Australia as a means to deliver economic and social benefits to Indigenous people and communities in the north and to wider Australia.⁴ The ILC is well placed to support the development of governance and consultative frameworks to support the effective and meaningful engagement of Indigenous peoples in northern development.

2.

• **Expanding Indigenous Agricultural industries**

As at December 2013, ILC-operated agricultural businesses in Northern Australia represented 2,415,800 ha of Indigenous-held land (IHL) in production and ran a cattle herd of 98,676 head, making the ILC the 12th largest cattle producer in Australia. ILC agricultural businesses are located across northern WA, the NT and QLD and employed 143⁵ Indigenous people in remote and regional locations as at 30 June 2013, delivering significant cultural, environmental and social benefits.

At Attachment A is a description of the ILC agricultural businesses, including a case study of the ILC-operated Gunbalanya pastoral station and abattoir. The lease-back of Gunbalanya Station and Gunbalanya Meat Supplies from Traditional Owners enabled the ILC to develop a floodplain pastoral operation, small commercial abattoir and pastoral and meat processing training centre in a remote community where there were few other options for sustainable economic activities.

⁴ NAILSMA 2012. 'Towards resilient communities through reliable prosperity' North Australian Indigenous Experts Forum on Sustainable Economic Development - First Forum Report Mary River Park, Northern Territory, 19 – 21 June 2012. NAILSMA Knowledge Series 013/2012. North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance Ltd Darwin; <http://www.nailsma.org.au/sites/default/files/publications/Towards-resilient-communities-KS013-web.pdf>

⁵ ILC annual report 2012-2013 p 90

The ILC submits that opportunities exist for enhancing production levels by increasing the area of IHL in production and hence stimulating overall growth of the northern beef cattle industry. However, for all northern cattle producers, enabling improved efficiencies and thereby increased profitability throughout the livestock industry value chain is dependent upon the provision of adequate infrastructure, including road transport, cattle holding and processing facilities and improved access to ports for live export.

An example of the potential for expansion of the beef cattle industry can be taken from the coastal community of Wadeye (Port Keats) in the Northern Territory. At 300 km south west of Darwin, Wadeye is a six-hour drive via the Indigenous community of Nauiyu (Daly River). The Daly River Port Keats Aboriginal Land Trust land from Nauiyu to Wadeye is extremely good cattle country and presents substantial potential. Feasibility reports suggest that pastoral development could see more than 30,000 head of cattle run over floodplain and other areas. However, the area is susceptible to isolation during the wet season and development of pastoral or other more intensive industries would require development of freight appropriate, all-weather road to Darwin, the Daly River Region or Katherine; and enhanced wet weather access to extend viable grazing periods.

Removing these barriers to the operation of otherwise productive pastoral land held by Indigenous producers, through industry focused infrastructure investment, has the potential to bring significant tracts of country into production for the purposes of driving economic development. The construction of transport routes, in particular, has the potential to facilitate land use and participation in the agricultural economy by Indigenous people. The ILC welcomes the recent announcement of upgrades to critical NT road infrastructure, including the Wadeye/Port Keats Road and the Central Arnhem Highway⁶ and recognises the potential of these upgrades to contribute to the productivity of Indigenous-held land in adjoining areas.

3.

• Harnessing Export Potential

The northern Australian beef cattle industry is currently structured to service the live export trade. This is particularly true for operations in the north east Kimberley and the Top End of the Northern Territory where distance to domestic markets and limited access to local processing facilities have made live export the primary viable beef market. ILC-operated agricultural businesses contributed almost 13,000 head of cattle to the live export trade in 2013.

The ILC has worked to construct the Roebuck Export Depot (RED) on Roebuck Plains Station, which enables the effective aggregation and throughput of cattle from multiple pastoral leases in the Kimberley. Annually, RED handles approximately one third of the cattle for live export out of Broome, bringing additional cattle from Indigenous and non-Indigenous producers through the facility. Through this investment, the ILC has enabled Indigenous landholders to participate in the export

⁶ AAP Newswire, Australia by AAP
05 Mar 2014

economy, while enhancing the viability of beef production in the isolated north. (See Attachment A – case study - Roebuck Export Depot)

While efforts are made by producers to minimise the impact of live export dependency through diversification of cattle sale destinations where possible, the majority of cattle produced in northern NT and north-western WA remain destined for live export and producers remain vulnerable to market shifts.

The ILC views the investment by Australian Agricultural Company (AACo) in Livingston (NT) and the Yeeda Pastoral Co in Colourstone (WA) in abattoir facilities in the north as positive steps in the development of a more diversified market for north Australian produced beef. Investing in the capacity of northern producers to export boxed, chilled and other higher value beef products, for which there are growing international markets, creates product options for northern beef producers and opportunities for the expansion of finishing businesses, including on Indigenous-held land in the north. Increased capacity in the production of chilled products similarly increases opportunities for producers to engage with the southern domestic market, in beef and potentially buffalo meat.

The successful diversification of the northern beef cattle export industry relies on providing viable local processing options to producers. As with the expansion of the industry more generally, viable processing facilities require the support of access and finishing infrastructure in the form of all weather roads for delivery and transport; appropriate, well serviced ports; and proximate feedlot and holding facilities.

4.

• Expanding Indigenous Horticultural Industries

The ILC has collaborated with Indigenous groups, industry, and Local, State, and Commonwealth government agencies to develop viable horticultural businesses delivering increased training and employment opportunities for Indigenous people in regional and remote locations. Projects enabling Indigenous groups to take advantage of local and interstate markets such as Kalano Farm in Katherine in the NT and the Hopevale Banana Enterprise in QLD demonstrate the potential for horticulture to deliver local Indigenous benefits that support wider economic development. (See Attachment B, which illustrates the Hopevale Banana Enterprise)

Opportunities for expanding horticulture through mass irrigation in the north have long been raised with particular reference to the Kimberley. Research into water volumes suggest that, while irrigated horticulture may have the potential to provide local opportunities for Indigenous-held land to contribute to food and other plant material production, it is uncertain to what extent wider scale water dependent opportunities are achievable and sustainable.⁷ This uncertainty is heightened when water access is evaluated with regard to the critical issue of maintaining water flows required to protect cultural and environmental heritage values on Indigenous-held land.

⁷ http://www.regional.gov.au/regional/ona/nalwt_files/337388_NLAW_Review_2009.pdf

Considerable work is also required to establish the suitability of soils, as well as the economics of large scale production of crops under irrigation given remote locations and limited access to services. Large scale opportunities for horticulture to deliver Indigenous benefits are also dependent on the availability of appropriate land tenure and access to markets.

5.

• **Harnessing potential of emerging markets (e.g. carbon and biodiversity offsetting)**

Indigenous landholders in the north are well positioned to benefit from engagement in a viable Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) market. This market presents opportunities to engage in productive land uses on what is often marginal country where economic development opportunities are limited. By providing a possible new source of income for land management, the PES market has significant potential to promote sustainable ecosystem management and conservation of environmental and cultural heritage values on Indigenous-held land in northern Australia.

Activities related to carbon management in the land sector are a tangible example of PES markets in practice. To this end, Indigenous landholders are keen to further develop their contribution to the achievement of greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, including through carbon farming projects in northern Australia. Independent sources estimate that a combination of a few large Indigenous projects in northern Australia could offer up to 15 million tonnes of carbon abatement over the 7 years to 2020, using the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) methodology, developed by NAILSMA based on the West Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (WALFA) project, and tested by the ILC's Fish River Fire Project.

As the proponent of the Fish River Fire Project⁸, Australia's first controlled savanna burning project to be approved under the CFI, the ILC submits that innovative land management enterprises offer significant opportunities for Indigenous landholders to derive economic and broader benefits. The range of co-benefits that can be achieved include training and employment, biodiversity protection, protection of threatened species and sacred sites and improved community access to traditional country. Since the approval of the Fish River Fire Project, eight more CFI savanna burning projects across all jurisdictions in northern Australia have been approved. A demand for environmental service activities under the CFI, including savanna burning, revegetation, avoided deforestation, feral animal management and rangelands restoration, offers land use diversification opportunities that complement pastoral and other existing land-based enterprises.

The capacity of Indigenous landholders in the north to realise the opportunities of emerging PES markets, specifically carbon, will be determined by the terms of the developing Emissions Reduction Fund. A benchmark price for land sector carbon that reflects both the higher production cost and higher value of credits (arising from social, cultural, environmental and economic co-benefits) will be critical to the ongoing engagement of Indigenous landholders in the carbon economy.

⁸ <http://www.fishriver.com.au/>, <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-06-14/the-indigenous-fire-project-generating-carbon/4756114>

Beyond carbon, PES market opportunities can be realised for almost any type of ecosystem service that is valued by companies, society or even individuals. Another common type of PES market activity is biodiversity offsets. Biodiversity offsets are designed to compensate for the residual impacts of development activities, such as mining, by achieving no net loss of biodiversity values in the area affected by the project. This may include habitat restoration, removing ecological threats, reintroducing native species or protecting existing ecological communities through conservation covenants. Indigenous landholders in northern Australia are well positioned to benefit from the delivery of biodiversity offset projects that may be required as a result of planned future development in the region.

The ILC seeks to assist the design and development of Indigenous PES enterprises that would benefit industry and Australia.

6.

• Expanding Indigenous tourism industry

The ILC has collaborated with Indigenous groups in the development of tourism enterprises including the Mossman Gorge Gateway Centre (QLD), Home Valley Station (WA) and Ayers Rock Resort (NT), which combine Indigenous employment and training outcomes with the provision of world class travel experiences. (See Attachment C, which illustrates the Mossman Gorge Centre) In addition to financial returns and the capacity to draw consumers to wider aspects of the regional economy, ILC-operated tourism operations explicitly value and protect the cultural and environmental values of the Indigenous land on which they are based, while providing opportunities for cultural learning and reconciliation. The ILC submits that the unique cultural and environmental values of Indigenous-held land in the north presents viable opportunities for the expansion of both domestic and international tourism that can, in turn, deliver enhanced Indigenous training and employment opportunities.

Support for industry-based training, as through the ILC Training to Employment (T2E) model where accredited training and mentoring is complemented by guaranteed offers of employment for graduates, provides real job opportunities with career pathways in remote and regional areas for Indigenous workers while meeting the business challenge of sourcing appropriate, highly skilled staff within the tourism sector.

As is the case for the wider tourism industry, ILCs tourism businesses are vulnerable to changes in visitor numbers and thus their successes are somewhat determined by availability of multiple access routes and complementary tourism services. Enhanced road and rail transport links between key tourism corridors in the north, and the provision of incentives to aviation service providers to maintain and extend existing services in response to new product offerings, would support expansion of the Indigenous tourism industry.

ILC experience of current impediments to the development of northern Australia

The ILC has identified the following impediments to the immediate further development of industries in the north of Australia where the ILC has existing expertise.

1.

• Social Infrastructure

Social infrastructure is critical to enabling individuals and communities to effectively realise economic development opportunities. In the context of northern Australia, the most significant infrastructure gaps exist in remote and regional Indigenous communities and include:

- provision of adequate housing - linked to land tenure reform
- communications – mobile services and broadband
- ensuring appropriate access to basic services such as secure power and water supply and waste management
- access to health, education and social support

Across northern Australia different funding structures and systems of governance prevail in the delivery of services in remote Indigenous communities. The absence of cohesive arrangements and adequate effective investment in infrastructure presents numerous challenges for community-based service providers and local Indigenous council governance and authority, and limits the end effect of broader efforts to improve infrastructure provision. The need to establish infrastructure bases in remote northern Australia, which are conducive to the effective economic participation of Indigenous people, must be considered in any broader blueprint for development of the north.

2.

• Road Infrastructure

Road infrastructure in the north is limited in its capacity to facilitate the economic development of the region. Access to many remote Indigenous communities is restricted by seasonal flooding during the wet season reducing the mobility of individuals and their engagement with employers or employment services in regional centres. Seasonal access issues can be seen as a deterrent to private investment in remote sites and in the engagement of local labour by private sector employers across industries. Road and other transport infrastructure deficiencies across the north create specific impediments to the development of freight reliant industries. Unsealed and poorly maintained road transport routes such as through the Tanami or towards Nhulunbuy, via the Central Arnhem highway, are seasonally restricted and their condition is such that trucking companies are reluctant to use them. As in the Daly region example cited above, access to high ground holding paddocks and all weather roads are required for the expansion of flood plain pastoral operations. The strategic development of transport corridors through northern Australia can deliver increased economic development potential on Indigenous-held land and better access to employment and social infrastructure by residents of remote communities.

3.

• Sea Based Transport

Port facilities, and the frequency at which they are serviced by shipping lines, are major issues for producers of perishable products destined for export or interstate markets. This is particularly pertinent to the export of food products in north western WA. For example, the newly established Colourstone abattoir on the Great Northern Hwy near Derby is planning to truck processed cattle (boxed beef and/or carcasses) to Fremantle for export as adequate facilities are not available in Broome or Derby. The shipping services to these ports are infrequent and not appropriate for chilled meat and other perishables. Broome and Wyndham ports are adequate only for live cattle, and there is potential for the development of facilities in Derby for the live export trade. The lack of facilities and the low service levels impact on other agricultural enterprises, driving key industry decisions such as crop choice and viability assessments. Improved access to markets has the potential to widen the scope of investigation into diverse uses of Indigenous held land throughout northern Australia.

4.

• Land Tenure Reform

Land tenure reform concerns in northern Australia relate to rights and interests in economic and cultural development, and the protection of environmental and cultural values. These concerns arise in the context of varied administrative systems and many land areas where multiple tenure types overlap. While there are tenure review processes underway in each of the northern states and the NT, there is currently little sign of progress in achieving necessary consensus to enable the establishment of a consistent workable regime for balancing the interests of multiple stakeholders.

Indigenous landholders typically hold communal tenure rights either through a Pastoral Lease arrangement or through a form of inalienable ownership or access and rights conferred by Aboriginal land regimes or native title determinations. Pastoral leases provide access and use of land, but dictate land use purposes and limit opportunities for diversification. In the context of land that is marginal to unviable for pastoral purposes, this restriction impedes the ability of leaseholders to engage in possibly more viable horticultural, tourism and/or conservation and ecosystem service opportunities.

The argument is often made that Aboriginal land ownership regimes, which confer communal interests, restrict the ability of remote Indigenous communities and/or native title holders to leverage the monetary value of their land to achieve economic outcomes. In this context Australia sits well behind other jurisdictions (such as Canada) where creative mechanisms have been developed and Governments, major financial institutions and Indigenous interests have worked in genuine partnership to address the tension between the inalienability of Indigenous rights over and connection to land and the 'bankability' of title to enable Indigenous communities to participate in economic development. In a similar context there has been only limited resort taken to exploring the existing opportunities via the leasing or other regimes already accessible under the NT Aboriginal Land Rights Act, and the inherent flexibility available under the Indigenous Land Use Agreement provisions

of the Native Title Act. The mining industry is the one exception in this regard, which has successfully employed these and other related mechanisms in reaching negotiated agreements to secure exploration and /or mining operations on lands either held under Indigenous ownership or the subject of native title claims.

In the Australian context, the Commonwealth Government has the opportunity to display leadership by offering direct incentives to key stakeholders (especially the states and territories) in adopting alternative settlement framework agreements in respect to resolving outstanding native title claims (reflecting the approach already adopted by the ILC in its own policy in relation to native title). It should also jointly engage directly with Indigenous interests (via Land Councils and Native Title representative Bodies) and major financial institutions to objectively explore and identify means of overcoming existing barriers to private investment in land held or under claim by Indigenous interests. The availability of secure tenure options has the potential to stimulate private investment in the north. An example of this is the previously mentioned abattoir at Colourstone. This facility was constructed on 10 HA of freehold land, the tenure of which provided sufficient security to attract international investors.

5.

• Regional Employment Based Training Building Regional Leadership

The engagement of Indigenous people in the economic development of northern Australia requires significant investment in enterprise based training and employment initiatives. The ILC's Training to Employment (T2E) program has demonstrated the capacity to transition Indigenous people to real jobs in remote and regional locations. Working in all three of the northern jurisdictions, T2E meets the business need for highly trained staff through providing Indigenous workers with fully paid accredited training in conjunction with intensive support including quality accommodation and recreational facilities. With completion rates above national training averages, T2E creates opportunities for Indigenous workers to successfully transition into employment in key industries in northern Australia. The current low levels of Indigenous employment in the north are a key impediment to the development of the region. Appropriate investment in proven training and real employment is an essential partner to the provision of social infrastructure to enable Indigenous people to effectively participate in economic development.

The ILC has invested over \$9M over the past three years to facilitating 866 training opportunities and employment outcomes for Indigenous people in the tourism and agricultural industries. The ILC's contribution was matched by the Federal Government during this period. The previous Government's changes to the Indigenous Employment Program have resulted in difficulties in accessing the same levels of matching funding, which if not corrected will compel the ILC to lower its Indigenous employment targets. The ILC is optimistic that the '*Andrew Forrest Review*' of Indigenous employment programs will address these concerns.

The ILC believes that investment in regional leadership programs, to develop and support Indigenous champions within established and emerging markets, is a key requirement to drive the sustainability of industries and to ensure that Indigenous people derive benefit from economic development. A

focus on entry level training and engagement will not support the growth of aspirations by Indigenous workers to develop careers or remove the dependence on non-Indigenous managerial and technical expertise. It is necessary to shift to a multifaceted approach to Indigenous engagement in the labor market, including support for all tiers of training and industry participation to establish a platform for the development of the north of Australia.

6.

• Regional labour market disincentives

The engagement of Indigenous people in regional labour markets is critical to the effective and sustainable development of northern Australia. Notwithstanding requirements for training and skills support, the economic, social and geographic features of living in northern Australia, particularly in remote areas, provide significant disincentives to labour market participation. In the context of high and often intergenerational unemployment, the social incentive to join the workforce is substantially less powerful than in locations where workforce participation is the norm. In addition, living in the north often necessitates extended travel to take up employment, creating a burden of distance from family and a real cost in fuel and transport costs that are a direct reduction in the monetary benefit from work. High costs of living with respect to utilities, transport, housing (in the private market) and food expenses act as a further reduction in the direct benefit from entering the workforce in northern Australia. These expense factors may similarly act as disincentives for prospective 'expert' employees considering relocating to northern regions as salaries for senior positions fail to adequately account for higher living costs, making it difficult to attract and retain high quality employees.

In planning for the development of Northern Australia, the ILC recommends that consideration be given to providing additional (non-regressive) tax relief to residents of the north to compensate for high living costs. Further, to increase the incentive to engage in the workforce, the ILC recommends an examination of the impacts of workforce entry on access to critical social supports such as public housing access and concession card holder status. We recommend consideration be given to reforming these thresholds and the sliding scale at which Centrelink payments are reduced, particularly for residents of remote communities with a history of long term unemployment.

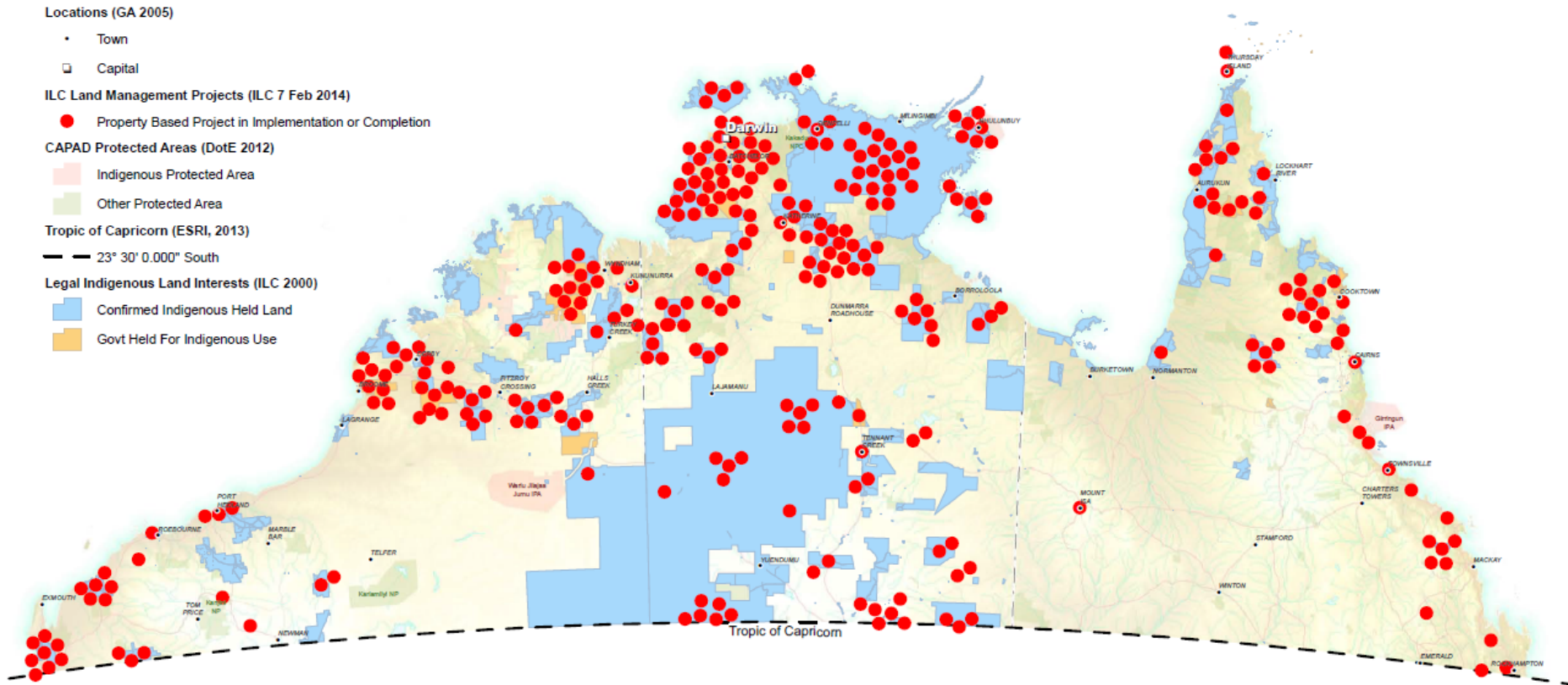
Conclusion

The ILC submits that Indigenous people must be meaningfully engaged in any planning and implementation of the development of northern Australia. Subject to appropriate investment in infrastructure, and the funding of training and employment initiatives supported by regulatory reforms increasing incentives to engage in the northern workforce, Indigenous people are well placed to drive national benefits from the economic development of the north. The ILC asserts that sustainable economic development must effectively protect the environmental and cultural values of northern Australia, ensuring the continued contribution of the region to the environmental and cultural heritage of the nation. Through almost twenty years of experience in collaborating with Indigenous land holders, the ILC has developed extensive networks and partnerships in the achievement of economic, social, environmental and cultural benefits by Indigenous people. Accordingly, the ILC is well placed to facilitate ongoing benefits from the development of north Australia.

In summary, the ILC seeks to continue to lead collective impact approaches by collaborating with, and leveraging contributions from, all levels of government, private investors and philanthropic organisations to develop Indigenous enterprises and employment to derive social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits.

ILC Property Based Land Management Projects as of 6 February 2014,
 Legal Indigenous Land Interests North of the Tropic of Capricorn as of 2000

06 February 2014



Property project locations are indicative only.
 Points have been cartographically adjusted to illustrate distribution.

Western Australia Indigenous Held Land	Area (ha.)
Confirmed IHL	17,749,512.47
Govt held for Indigenous use	1,929,829.09
Total IHL	19,679,341.56
Total Land Area North of Tropic	94,163,448.80
Percentage of Land Indigenous Held	21%

Northern Territory Indigenous Held Land	Area (ha.)
Confirmed IHL	48,908,084.56
Govt held for Indigenous use	396,582.53
Total IHL	49,304,667.09
Total Land Area North of Tropic	109,598,370.56
Percentage of Land Indigenous Held	45%

Queensland Indigenous Held Land	Area (ha.)
Confirmed IHL	5,136,501.42
Govt held for Indigenous use	456,208.58
Total IHL	5,592,710.00
Total Land Area North of Tropic	94,458,092.35
Percentage of Land Indigenous Held	6%

11-Feb-2014
 ILC Map No. 2313

Australian Government
Indigenous Land Corporation

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 of copyright and may infringe the secrecy provisions contained in the
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 Topographic data and data elevation model source from Geoscience Australia.
 Albers Equal Area Projection Coordinate System based on GDA94 datum.

FIGURE B

ILC Land Acquisition Activity North of the Tropic of Capricorn

06 February 2014



Locations (GA 2005)

- Town
- Capital

ILC land acquisition less than 15,000 ha. (ILC 06 Feb 2014)

- ILC Granted Property
- ILC Acquired Property

ILC land acquisition greater than 15,000 ha. (ILC 06 Feb 2014)

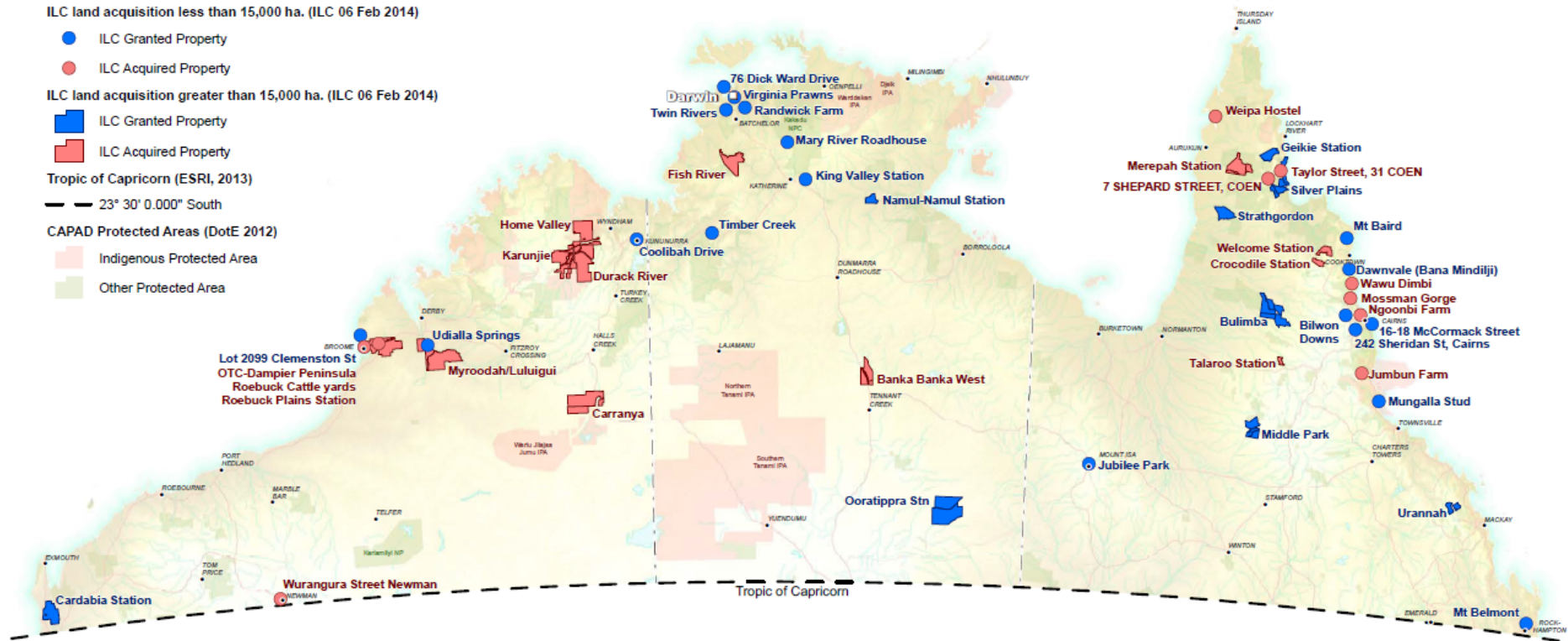
- ILC Granted Property
- ILC Acquired Property

Tropic of Capricorn (ESRI, 2013)

— 23° 30' 0.000" South

CAPAD Protected Areas (DotE 2012)

- Indigenous Protected Area
- Other Protected Area



10-Feb-2014
ILC Map No. 2313



Australian Government
Indigenous Land Corporation

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0 200 400 600 800 1 000 Kilometers

ILC Agricultural Businesses ILC agricultural businesses are operated as commercial enterprises using sound business principles in accordance with section 191F (1) of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005. The ILC operates businesses to increase Indigenous employment opportunities for Indigenous people and to provide on-the-job training opportunities for Indigenous people, not only in pastoral activities, but also in natural resource management. Through these businesses, Indigenous-held land is making a significant contribution to the economic activity of the region in which each business is located and is bringing large areas of previously undeveloped land into production. During the past six years, the ILC has been developing its businesses and establishing each one as an autonomous business entity. Now that process has largely been completed and the individual businesses are fully operational, their activities are being integrated, where practical, to increase productivity and profitability.

Gunbalanya Station and Meats, Gunbalanya The lease-back of Gunbalanya Station and Gunbalanya Meat Supplies from Traditional Owners by the ILC enabled the development of a floodplain pastoral operation, small commercial abattoir and pastoral and meat processing training centre in a remote community with few other options for sustainable economic activities. Gunbalanya receives cattle from ILC properties in the NT for the meatworks and finishes cattle for live export. Gunbalanya Meats operates a small abattoir and retail butcher shop in the community of Gunbalanya. Beef and buffalo meat is processed and sold to a wide range of customers, including eight Indigenous community supermarkets, various NT meat wholesalers and retailers, and Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia which operates Ayers Rock Resort, Mossman Gorge and Home Valley Station.



How the ILC assisted:

- Injected capital, training, support, planning, fencing and infrastructure to develop pastoral operations and the meatworks.

Collaboration:

- The ILC and Traditional Owners entered into a 15-year agreement with Gunbalanya Meat Supply Pty Ltd, the Arnhem Land Aboriginal Land Trust and the Northern Land Council

Outputs:

The business has brought Indigenous-held land back into production, increased throughput at the meatworks and improved food security for the region

- Gunbalanya Station produced a cash operating surplus of \$583,248 for the year ending June 2013.
- Gunbalanya Meats achieved a cash operating surplus of \$163,893 for 2012-13.
- In 2013, eight (8) Indigenous meat workers were employed by Gunbalanya Meats and 12 station hands by Gunbalanya Station; integration of the businesses enables a wider range of employment opportunities for local workers
- For the 2012-2013 financial year, there were 31 new training commencements and 22 training participants were carried over from 2011-12. Station trainees and staff completed horsemanship and low stress stock handling schools.

Cultural and Social Benefits

- Income received by Indigenous staff and trainees helps support individuals and entire families living in the Gunbalanya community.
- Gunbalanya Meats supplies fresh affordable meat to eight Indigenous community stores.
- Land management by station staff, such as efforts to control the Mimosa Pigra, a weed of national significance, helps protect and maintain access to culturally important land.
- Gunbalanya Station and Meats hosted field visits as part of the Second North Australian Indigenous Experts Forum on Sustainable Economic Development facilitated by NAILSMA.
- The business won the *2012 Australian Business Award for Community Contribution* in recognition of the positive impacts that Gunbalanya Station and Meats are having in the Indigenous community of Gunbalanya.

West Kimberley Integrated Cattle Businesses, Broome and Derby – the operations of the three cattle businesses in the western Kimberley region – Roebuck Plains Station (RPS), **Roebuck Export Depot (RED)** and Myroodah Station – have been integrated to provide improved profitability and enhanced training and employment opportunities for Indigenous trainees and workers. RED enhances regional mainstream economic development, providing an important service to the regional cattle industry by quarantining up to 8,000 head of cattle at a time prior to shipment to markets in Asia and the Middle East.

How the ILC assisted:

- Built Roebuck Export Depot, a new, state-of-the-art industry, AQIS-registered live export depot
- Infrastructure and herd development on Roebuck Plains Station
- Investment in infrastructure and equipment at Myroodah

Collaboration:

- RED assists existing Aboriginal pastoral properties with marketing, together with the possibility of consolidating cattle loads from different properties, thereby increasing prices paid for cattle

Outputs:

- Significant capacity has been added to WA's \$198m live cattle trade; approximately 1/3 of live export out of Broome passes through RED annually.
- The RED facility enables Indigenous and non-Indigenous cattle producers to export cattle through an Indigenous-owned depot.
- The combined businesses employed 55 Indigenous people in 2012–13.
- Residential employment-based training programs continued to be conducted on RPS and Myroodah. Pre-employment programs were conducted for 30 trainees with 20 commencing traineeships. In total, 32 trainees undertook training in Certificate II or III in Agriculture (Beef Production), and a Certificate II in Business Administration.
- RPS trainees work in RED on a roster to obtain broader experience in the beef cattle industry.

Cultural and Social Benefits:

- Traditional Owners and their families access RPS and Myroodah stations frequently to maintain cultural connections to the country.



The ILC Supporting Horticulture on Indigenous held land provides opportunities for Indigenous employment and training in remote and regional areas with landholdings and market access suited to crop production. Through its land management function, the ILC contributes intellectual and physical capital through planning and feasibility development and investment in infrastructure, plant and equipment.

Hope Vale Banana Plantation in Hope Vale, QLD is an example of the ILC supporting opportunities for the Indigenous Estate to contribute to regional development through horticulture. Through extensive collaboration, the ILC has supported the Hope Vale Foundation in the development of an 80ha Banana plantation on land leased from the Hope Vale Shire Council. The ILC provided funding for the construction of a processing facility, enabling the plantation to process its produce efficiently and economically. It is a key aspect of the ongoing development and success of the Banana Plantation which will see up to 200,000 cartons of bananas produced in 2014.



How the ILC assisted:

- Feasibility Study in September 2012
- Funding for the construction of a banana packing and processing shed, completed December 2013

Collaboration:

The total cost of the project is \$6.3 million. In addition to the ILC's funding contribution, the following agencies committed to contribute funding and in-kind support to the project:

- Indigenous Business Australia
- Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
- Dole Australia Pty Ltd
- (Former) Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs
- (Former) Queensland Government Department of Employment, Economic Development & Innovation
- Queensland Government Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, through the Cape York Welfare Reform program (now the responsibility of the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs)
- (Former) Queensland Government Department of Communities

Outputs:

- 32 full time Indigenous employees at the Banana Plantation,
- All employees have participated in unaccredited on-the-job practical horticultural training.
- 35.76 ha of Cavendish Bananas have been planted. of which 31.37 ha are in production. A further 9.33 ha will be planted by the end of February 2014 which will give a total planted area of 44.73 ha.
- The remaining 26.37 ha of bananas will be planted in 2014

Cultural and Social Benefits:

- High school and boarding students in Cooktown will benefit from vocational training and the availability of casual/ school holiday jobs previously unavailable in the region.
- For some plantation workers, the Banana farm represents the first full time work available in Hope Vale.

ILC Tourism Businesses in Northern Australia - the ILC's tourism businesses at Ayers Rock Resort, Mossman Gorge Centre and Home Valley Station provide Indigenous traineeships in hospitality and tourism resulting in employment at one of the businesses or with an employment partner. The vision of the training to employment program is to create a skilled Indigenous workforce for Australia's hospitality and tourism industry. In 2011 the ILC Board established a wholly-owned subsidiary company, Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia Pty Ltd (Voyages), to manage and operate the ILC's tourism business portfolio and act as a vehicle to assist the development of Indigenous tourism across the nation.

Mossman Gorge Gateway Centre is an example of expanding and developing the Indigenous estate to establish a nationally significant Indigenous tourism business and training facility to create Indigenous employment and drive economic development. (Mossman Gorge Community is an Australian Government welfare reform trial site).

Mossman Gorge Centre is an Indigenous eco tourism development, constructed by the ILC and operated by Voyages, which offers visitors improved access to the Mossman Gorge World Heritage area and provides employment and training opportunities for Indigenous people. Developed in collaboration with the local Kuku Yalanji people and opened in June 2012, the centre provides visitor facilities including a café, art gallery as well as shuttle access to the gorge and a choice of Indigenous cultural tours.



How the ILC assisted:

- Acquired 9 hectare property at the entrance to the Mossman Gorge Aboriginal Community
- Constructed a world-class \$16m visitor centre at the site – opened in June 2012
- Constructed a residential Training College to provide accredited training in the tourism, hospitality and related industries
- Provision of a dedicated, locally-based human resources officer for on-ground co-ordination, community engagement and liaison with employment and training providers, host employers and government agencies

Collaboration:

- Mossman Gorge Aboriginal Community identified an opportunity to develop businesses from the more than 500,000 tourists that visit the gorge each year. The community had the vision of transporting tourists from outside the community up to the gorge to reduce impacts of traffic on the environment and their community. However, it did not have the capital or capacity to take advantage of the opportunity.
- The ILC Project leverages funding and in-kind support from DEEDI (QLD), the main funder of the *Job Guarantee* program, DEEWR, FaHCSIA, DERM (Qld), and the Mossman Gorge Aboriginal Community
- ILC is the principal funder, contributing approx. \$20m – the investment is to be recouped in approximately 10 years

Outputs:

- 60 Indigenous people have been employed at the Centre since its opening in June 2012 and the centre currently enjoys a 90% Indigenous employment rate.
- Over 2011 - 2013, the Mossman Gorge Centre business hosted 36 Indigenous trainees.
- The Mossman Gorge Centre business hosted 15 Indigenous trainees in the 2012-2013 year, of which six commenced a 12-month Certificate II in Hospitality traineeship in April 2013, with five students graduating and four placed into employment. There are two Indigenous students continuing their Chef apprenticeships.
- In 2012-13, the residential Training Centre had 29 Indigenous people commence a 20-week Certificate II in Hospitality course, with 21 Indigenous students graduating and 15 people placed into employment including at Ayers Rock Resort.
- In its first full financial year, Mossman Gorge Centre welcomed more than 224,000 visitors generating approximately \$2.5m in total revenues.