



**Australian Government**  
**Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations**

Ms Julie Dennett  
A/g Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Dennett

**RE Inquiry into the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Bill 2005 and associated bills.**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Committee's inquiry into the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Bill 2005 (CATSI Bill) and associated bills; the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Consequential, Transitional and Other Measures Bill 2006 (Transitionals Bill) and the Corporations Amendment (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporations) Bill 2006 (Corporations Amendment Bill).

The Bills and Parliamentary Amendments to the CATSI Bill make up the legislative package that will repeal and replace the *Aboriginal Councils and Associations Act 1976*.

Please find attached information about these Bills, as well as information about the Parliamentary Amendments to the CATSI Bill which will be introduced when the CATSI Bill is considered by parliament. The Bills include transitional provisions enabling corporations to transfer to the CATSI Bill legislation and a number of provisions in the Parliamentary Amendments respond to issues raised during the inquiry into the CATSI Bill in October 2005.

In addition I attach information about the consultation undertaken during the development of the Bills and the communication strategy to assist stakeholders understand the nature of the reforms and the requirements for transition.

Attachment A provides information on the Transitionals Bill supporting introduction of the CATSI Bill, with a detailed outline of the measures contained in the transitional provisions.

Attachment B provides information on the Corporations Act amendments contained in the Corporations Amendment Bill. These amendments were required to be considered and approved by state and territory members of the Ministerial Council on Corporations so are contained in a separate Bill.

Attachment C provides information on the communication strategy undertaken by the Office of the Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations (ORAC) regarding the development and introduction of the legislation package over the period 2001-2006.

Attachment D provides an overview of the ongoing consultation and communication that has occurred following introduction of the CATSI Bill in 2005.

Attachment E provides an overview of the parliamentary amendments to the CATSI Bill.

Information about the legislation package and tools being developed to assist corporations is available on the website: [www.orac.gov.au](http://www.orac.gov.au) and can be provided in hard copy by contacting ORAC. Samples of the information available is at Attachment F and much of this information is being communicated through the National Indigenous Radio Network to take account of literacy and language needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

I hope this further information assists the Committee. ORAC welcomes comments or queries on the Bill or on any elements of ORAC's work from the Committee or from any other interested persons. These can be directed to Ms Toni Matulick, Director, Legislative Reform (02 6212 2261, toll free 1800 622 431 or [toni.matulick@orac.gov.au](mailto:toni.matulick@orac.gov.au)).

Yours sincerely

Laura Beacroft  
Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations  
25 September 2006