

Chapter 1

Introduction

The Committee's statutory duty

1.1 The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Account has a statutory duty to examine the annual reports of the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) and the Indigenous Land Corporation (the ILC).

1.2 Under Section 206(c) of the *Native Title Act 1993*, ('the NT Act') the Committee is required to examine each annual report that is prepared by the President of the NNTT or by any person under Part 4A of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989* ('the ATSIC Act'). The Committee, at its discretion, reports to Parliament on any matters to which Parliament's attention should be directed.

1.3 In the view of the Committee, the analysis of the Annual Reports is an opportunity for agencies to receive constructive assistance to improve performance and accountability.

Reports considered

1.4 Pursuant to these requirements, this report examines:

- the National Native Title Tribunal Annual Report 2004-2005;
- the Indigenous Land Corporation Annual Report 2004-2005; and
- the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund Account (Land Fund) Report 2004-05.

National Native Title Tribunal

1.5 The NNTT is established under Part 6 of the NT Act. The annual report of the NNTT was presented to the Deputy President on 23 December 2005 and tabled in the Senate and in the House of Representatives on 7 February 2006.

The Indigenous Land Corporation and the Land Fund Account

1.6 The ILC is a statutory authority established under section 191A of the ATSIC Act and continuing under section 191A of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005*. The Land Fund Account report is included in the Annual Report of the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA).

1.7 The annual report of the ILC was tabled in the House of Representatives on 16 February 2006 and in the Senate on 28 February 2006.

Adoption of the Report

1.8 The Committee considered and adopted the report at a private meeting on 14 March 2006.