

## GENERAL OPERATIONS

The 2002-2003 year was the eighth year of operation of the organisation. The ILC has three Divisional offices, which are primarily responsible for carrying out the ILC's activities. They are:

- Central Divisional Office (CDO)
  - Northern Territory, South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria
- Eastern Divisional Office (EDO)
  - ACT, New South Wales and Queensland
- Western Divisional Office (WDO)
  - Western Australia.

The Finance and Administration, Information Technology, Human Resources, Legal, and Policy & Strategy sections are located in Adelaide and assist the Divisions in working towards achieving the ILC's outcome and output. The Business Planning Directorate is based in Canberra, as is the Office of the General Manager. The Capacity Development, Corporate Support and Land Acquisition Units are based in Brisbane.

The ILC Board confirmed these amendments to the staffing and structure of the ILC in June 2003. Its intention was to ensure the organisation is appropriately resourced and properly structured to ensure all areas of the organisation work cohesively and on a nationally consistent basis.

### OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE IN MEETING OUTCOME 1

The *Improving Outcomes from Indigenous Land Purchases* report has provided the ILC with valuable information regarding the status of the vast majority of ILC-purchased properties and their effectiveness in meeting the Indigenous applicants' needs. The report has provided many challenges for the ILC.

The ILC is well advanced in implementing the Property Remediation Program to address issues on ILC-purchased properties, divested and not divested, to improve both the physical and social infrastructure on them. This is a complex task that will require major effort and resources over the next three to five years.

In December 2002, the Hon. Philip Ruddock MP launched the *Land Acquisition and Land Management Programs Guide 2002-2006*, which details new land acquisition and land management program guidelines. These guidelines were developed to overcome the shortcomings in previous ILC acquisition strategies identified in the Improving Outcomes report. The program guidelines require applicants to demonstrate that the purchase of land will lead to the generation of sustainable and viable benefits under one of four program streams: economic, cultural, social and environmental. These streams will enable the ILC Administration and applicants for ILC support to focus more precisely on why the land is to be purchased and what benefits will subsequently accrue to the landholders. This will require the ILC's Administration to conduct its business in a different way than in past years.

It is important that applicants and our broader stakeholders understand the new program guidelines. The implementation of a broad and ongoing communication strategy is already well advanced, with the majority of ATSI Regional Councils already briefed on the details of the new program streams. Feedback has been very supportive of the new approach taken by the ILC.



The ILC is already moving to build capacity, both within the ILC itself and amongst our existing clients. Internal capacity building focuses on understanding our new guidelines in detail and also on understanding the nature and needs of our applicants before assessing their applications for support. Developing the capacity of our applicants will require inter agency partnerships with various Commonwealth and State training and educational bodies. Building up the capacity of our clients to adequately manage their land is very important in ensuring that benefits can be achieved on an ongoing basis.