

## Introduction

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The Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) is an independent statutory authority established to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to acquire and manage land to provide economic, environmental, social or cultural benefits. To assist in achieving this the ILC receives an annual draw down from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund Reserve (the Land Fund).

### Background

The establishment of this Land Fund was a part of the Commonwealth's three-tier response to the High Court's decision on the 'Mabo case'<sup>1</sup>. The first part of the response was the enactment of the *Native Title Act 1993*, while the establishment of the Land Fund, and subsequently the ILC, formed the second part. The third part was a proposed package to address Indigenous socio-economic issues, broadly described as the "Social Justice Package".

### Enabling legislation

The ILC came into existence on June 1 1995 with the commencement of the *Land Fund and Indigenous Land Corporation (ATSIC Amendment) Act 1995*, which repealed Part 10 of the *Native Title Act 1993* and amended the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989*<sup>2</sup> by inserting into the act a new Part 4A. The ILC was established under Part 4A (section 191A) as an independent statutory authority with land acquisition and land management functions (section 191B).

### Responsible Minister

The ILC is accountable to the Parliament through the Minister for Reconciliation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs. The Minister is responsible for appointing the Board of Directors (section 191X(1)) but is not to direct the Corporation in relation to any of its activities except as expressly provided for in the Act (section 191L)

The ILC is required to provide the Minister with a copy of the National Indigenous Land Strategy and a copy of any changes to the strategy (section 919N(6)). The Minister is required to table these in Parliament (section 191N(7)). The ILC is also required to provide the Minister with a copy of a Regional Indigenous Land Strategy on request.