

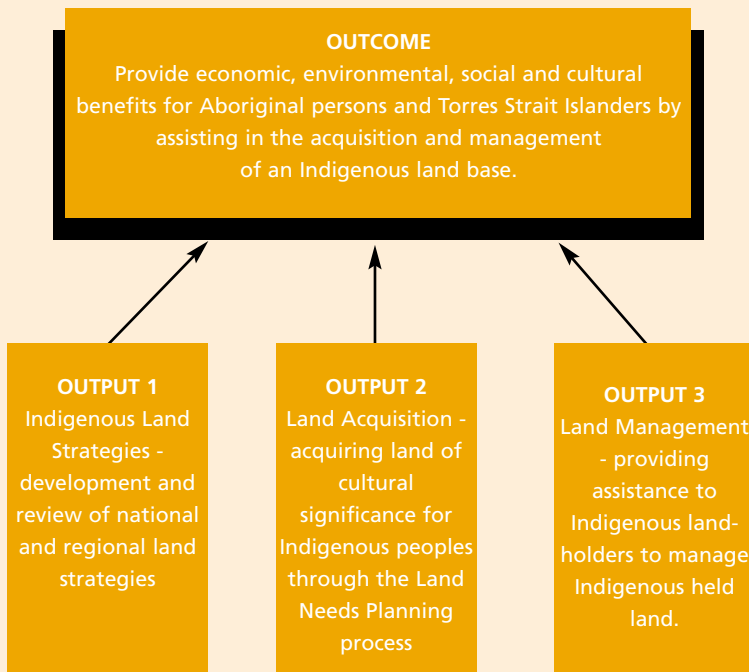
Objectives of the ILC and Performance Overview

In this reporting period the ILC progressed towards achieving its objective to, *“Provide economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits for Aboriginal persons and Torres Strait Islanders by assisting in the acquisition and management of an Indigenous land base”*.

The objective is set out here in diagrammatic form at Figure 2 and will be achieved through the performance of the following interrelated outputs.

Each output from each divisional office will need to comply with the current NILS and appropriate RILS as well as the ILC current policy and strategic plan.

**FIGURE 2:
2000 - 2001 OUTCOME AND OUTPUT STRUCTURE**



Output 1 Land Needs Planning Process

“Indigenous Land Strategies – development and review of national and regional land strategies”.

The ILC Board in May 2001 endorsed a revised National Indigenous Land Strategy 2001–2006 (NILS) that replaced the inaugural NILS 1995-2001. Subsequently, the Board also endorsed seven revised Regional Indigenous Land Strategies (RILS), which follow the State and Territory boundaries of Australia.

The revised NILS/RILS are a dynamic response to the needs that have been expressed in our consultations and the ILC’s experience in implementing the former versions of its National and Regional Strategies. They reflect the wide-ranging consultations that have been occurring since the ILC commenced its Land Needs Planning Process (LNPP) and the results of the National Indigenous Land Management Research Project that commenced in 1996.

The LNPP enabled the ILC to work with Indigenous groups and agencies throughout Australia to identify and prioritise possible land acquisition and land management proposals. Each individual Indigenous group’s land needs (whether acquisition or management-related) are recorded and used to provide the base for a Land Acquisition and Access Strategy (LAAS).

At the sub-regional level (typically ATSIC regions) the ILC, with assistance from other regional organisations with land-related responsibilities, collates these LAAS and uses them to prepare a Sub-Regional Overview of Land Needs (SROLN). This community-based and regional-based planning was instrumental in the revision of the NILS and RILS and will be for future revisions which will occur regularly.

Output 2 Land Acquisition

“Land Acquisition – acquiring land for Indigenous people through the Land Needs Planning Process”.

“
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This output has been pursued since inception. However, during the past year the emphasis shifted from purely acquisition to long-term sustainable land use planning. This was done in recognition of the fact that Indigenous people, once they become landowners, must also be able sustain activities on the land for themselves and future generations.

The following short statistics reflect the ILC land acquisition performance during the reporting period. For the 2000-2001 year the ILC across Australia:

- registered 128 new land acquisition proposals, a slight reduction from last year (132)
- approved for purchase 12 proposals, a decline from last year's total (18)
- purchased and settled on 18 properties, a decline from last year's total (30)
- divested 16 properties to Indigenous groups, a decrease from last year's total (30).

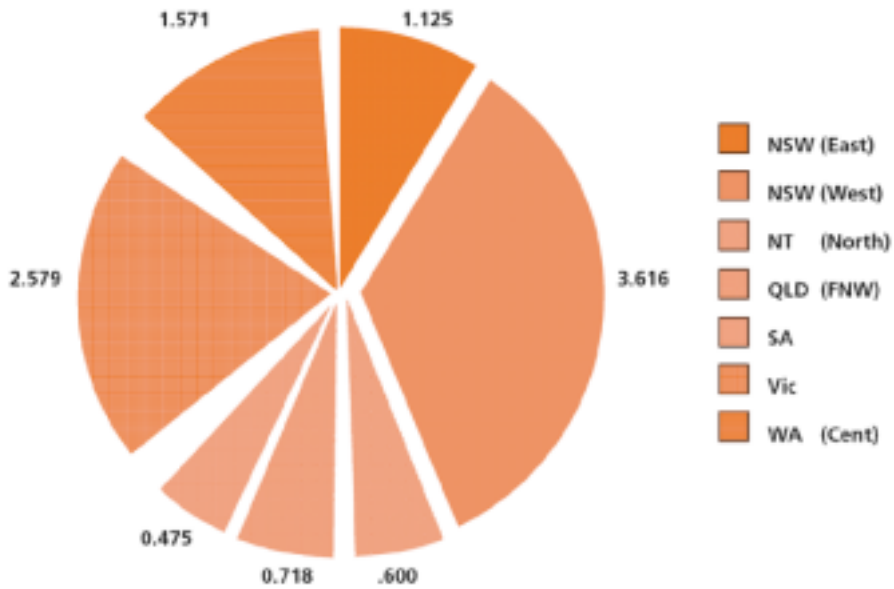
The decline in all four categories above is a result of the ILC's emphasis on the LNPP and the revision of its major policy documents, the NILS and RILS.

Extensive Land Needs Planning (LNP) also assists the ILC to attain a representative land base, primarily through collecting and collating the data gathered. This data contributes towards completing a systematic and comprehensive database on Indigenous landholdings and land needs. The task is major and ongoing.

**Table 2:
ILC LAND ACQUISITION, PURCHASES AND DIVESTMENTS
TO 30 JUNE 2001**

ILC Region	Total properties approved for purchase till 30 June 2000	Total properties settled till 30 June 2000	Total properties divested till 30 June 2001
NSW	48	35	26
NT	22	10	6
QLD	42	27	19
SA	53	21	14
TAS	7	3	0
VIC	36	21	16
WA	54	26	11
TOTAL	262	143	92

TOTAL COST OF PROPERTIES SETTLED 2000/01 (\$M)



Output 3 Land Management

“Land Management – providing assistance to Indigenous landholders to manage Indigenous-held land and business thereon”.

The land management policies of the ILC are now incorporated into the revised NILS and are to be implemented through five strategic initiatives:

- Group based planning - aimed at assisting Indigenous groups to identify and define their land use goals.
- Enterprise development - to assist Indigenous groups to develop enterprises whether these are businesses or other land-based activities.
- Regional development - through which the ILC will contribute to regional processes to ensure that they benefit Indigenous people.
- Coordination - to assist Indigenous groups to access appropriate services and programs operated by other agencies.
- Research - to ensure that Indigenous landholders and managers derive benefits from research conducted into relevant matters.

The revised Strategy also precludes the ILC from acquiring and granting properties unless their future maintenance and management is guaranteed.

Under the ILC's first policy the Land Use/Land Management Survey was the starting point for Indigenous landholders to approach the ILC for land management assistance prior to revised NILS. It was distributed on request and as of 30 June 2001 the ILC had 259 surveys registered. A total of 78 surveys were lodged by Indigenous landholders in the 2000-2001 year. These surveys contributed to the data the ILC has on Indigenous landholdings and was used in shaping the new NILS.

Under the ILC's first policy the ILC grants funds or makes loans only where alternative approaches, such as guaranteeing loans from external sources or carrying on land management activities under an agreement with the landholders, are impracticable. The ILC must pursue sound land and environmental practices, give priority to directly involving the landholders in land management activities and act in accordance with sound business principles whenever it performs its functions on a commercial basis.

The ILC during the reporting period spent a total of \$6.67 million on land management activities and this is being reviewed.

General Operations

The 2000-2001 year was the sixth full year of operation of the ILC. The ILC has three Divisional Offices that are primarily responsible for carrying out the ILC's responsibilities. These Divisional Offices are:

Central Division Office – Northern Territory, South Australia,
Tasmania and Victoria

Eastern Division Office – ACT, New South Wales and Queensland

Western Division Office – Western Australia

Land Enterprise Australia (LEA) is based in Canberra and assists all three ILC Divisional Offices when required.

The remaining ILC sections (Finance, Information Technology, Human Resource, Legal, Strategic Development) are located in Adelaide and also assist the Divisional Offices in working towards achieving the ILC's outcome and outputs.