

## Central Division Office

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### Output 1 Land Needs Planning Process

During 2000-2001, the few outstanding SROLN and their under-pinning LAAS were generally completed or received by the Division. Final minor re-drafting or the supply of maps are required in some cases, but essentially the documents can now be reviewed and analysed as part of the development of Sub-Regional Strategies. In all a total of 48 sub-regions have been identified within the Central Division, split up as follows:

- Northern Territory: 27 sub-regions
- South Australia: 14 sub-regions
- Victoria: 6 sub-regions
- Tasmania: 1 sub-region

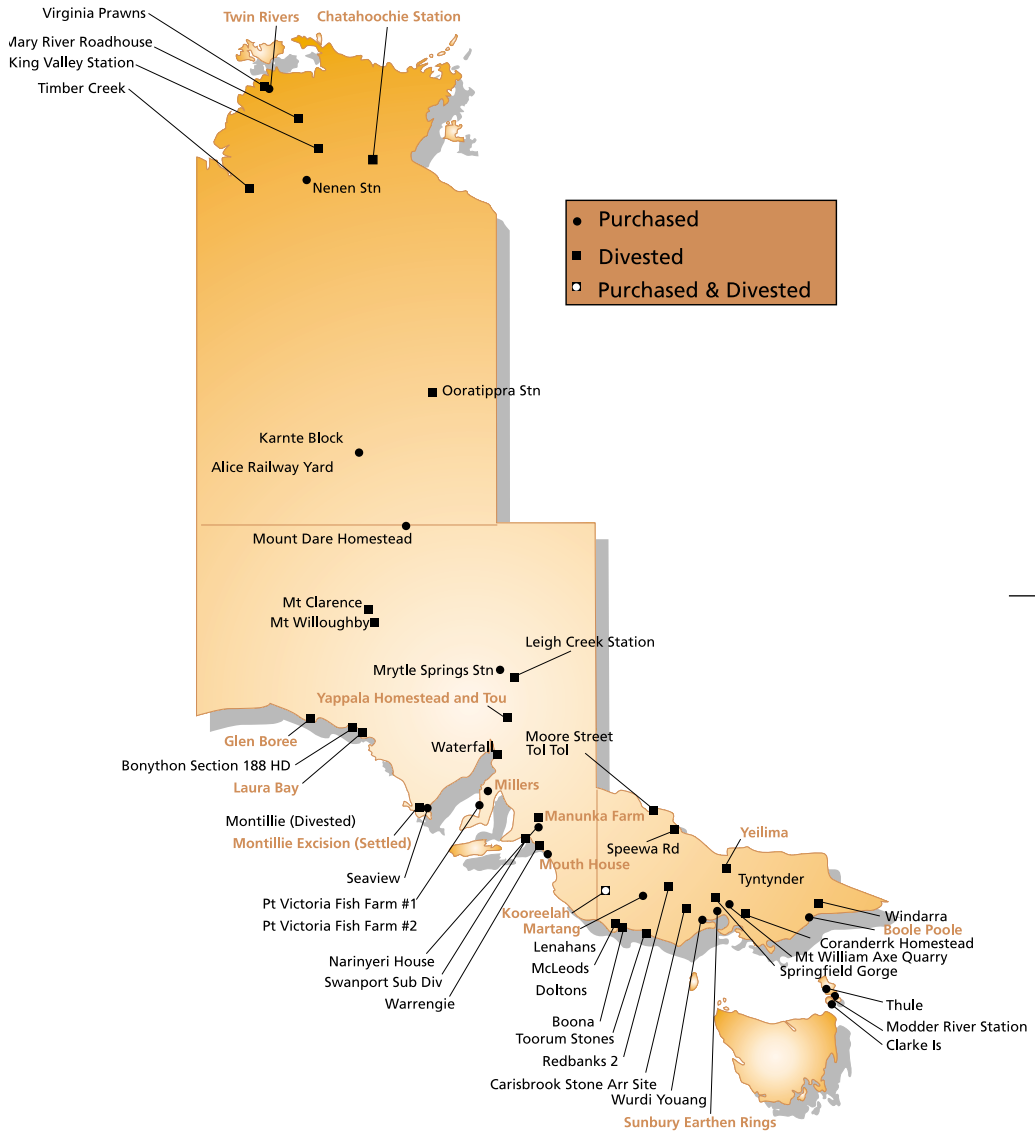
The development of Sub-Regional Strategies will commence in the coming year and will provide the CDO with a blueprint of future land acquisition activities. It is also intended, subject to availability of resources, to progressively review the content of the Strategies via consultations with the Indigenous community and relevant agencies in order that changes in land needs are identified and reflected in our land acquisition activities.

Registered land acquisition proposals that have not been identified as a high priority in their relevant SROLN/LAAS are not currently being assessed

The major issue emerging from the LNPP for the CDO is the challenge of ensuring that the Sub-Regional Strategies are as relevant as possible at any point in time. Significant effort has been expended over the past few years in gathering the information needed to develop the Strategies, but the profiles of the local Indigenous communities change over time, and therefore so do their land needs. Ensuring that the Strategies reflect changing priorities requires as much time and effort as was needed to develop them. It is often not possible to maintain this effort. The differences between the community's priorities expressed in existing dated Strategies and the community's current priorities can and do give rise to some dispute. The strategic review of the Strategies is perhaps the only way to minimise difficulties and keep the Strategies as current as possible.

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**FIGURE 4:  
CDO LAND ACQUISITIONS AND DIVESTMENTS 2000 -2001**



Annual Report 2000 - 2001

Indigenous Land Corporation

**Output 2 Land Acquisition**

A total of 52 land needs proposals were registered in the Central Division during the last financial year, with the majority of proposals coming from South Australia (22) and Victoria (19). Nine proposals came from the Northern Territory and two from Tasmania. This total compares with 64 registrations in the previous year.

The land needs proposals submitted continued to be diverse in nature and location, ranging from large pastoral holdings in remote areas to smaller holdings in urban areas (some extensively improved and others unimproved). A significant number of the proposals received last year were not identified in the LAAS developed in previous years by the ILC in consultation with the Indigenous community. Due to the significant number of current land needs registered, the Central Division has not been assessing proposals for land that have not been identified as a priority in the LNPP.

The ILC Board approved six acquisition proposals submitted to it by the Division during the past year, bringing the total number of approved proposals to 96. The CDO acquired seven properties during the 2000-2001 year (four in Victoria, two in South Australia and one in the Northern Territory) which raised the number of properties purchased in the CDO region to 55. Several of the properties acquired by the CDO during the year contained sites of considerable traditional and historical cultural significance.

In addition to acquisitions a further seven properties were divested to Indigenous corporations, raising the total to 34 divestments by CDO since its inception. Almost half of these (16) have occurred in Victoria, 13 in South Australia and five in the Northern Territory. The last seven divestments were to Indigenous corporations broadly representing about 6,600 people. Continuing issues in relation to State legislation in Tasmania prevented the divestment of any properties in that State, but the ILC will continue to work with the Tasmanian State Government to resolve this matter.

There is a continued demand by smaller or individual family groups for land to provide them with a homeland or some form of an economic base. Often this demand cannot be accommodated as it does not follow the approach outlined in the Sub-Regional Strategy. In the northern pastoral zone of the Division the demand for the acquisition of large pastoral holdings for comparatively small groups can not be accommodated because of the ILC's financial limitations. The challenge remains to reach a common, agreed position with the Indigenous communities and agencies on an achievable and strategic approach.

**Output 3 Land Management**

A total of 38 land management proposals were registered in the Central Division during the year, with 23 coming from the Northern Territory, four from Victoria, one from Tasmania and 10 from South Australia. The majority of the proposals fall into the categories of land-based enterprise assistance and/or development or land management/land use planning. The nature of enterprises being considered and developed by landowners is diverse and includes intensive horticulture, aquaculture, and cattle operations. These range from the establishment of small, sustainable 'killer' herds in remote communities to investigating the feasibility of Indigenous producer groups covering large Indigenous pastoral holdings.

In the planning area, the Division continues to work closely with other agencies that have responsibility for land management planning assistance, particularly those State/Territory departments that administer the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT)-funded programs of Property Management Planning and FarmBis. In this regard sound relationships have been established or maintained with the Northern Territory Departments of Primary Industry and Fisheries (DPIF) and Lands, Planning and Environment (LPE), Primary Industries and Resources South Australia (PIRSA), and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) in Victoria, involving the joint funding of Indigenous planning facilitators to work with Indigenous landowners. The Office of Aboriginal Development in the Northern Territory and Aboriginal Affairs Victoria have also played key facilitation roles in these and other areas.

Significant land management projects either commencing or continuing during 2000/01 include:

- The Strategy for Aboriginal Managed Lands in South Australia (SAMLISA) – a joint initiative between the ILC, SA Government and the three major Aboriginal land-holding bodies in SA (the SA Aboriginal Lands Trust, Maralinga Tjaratja and Anangu Pitjantjatjara). The project commenced in March 2000, and on-ground land management works will continue to March 2002.
- The Top End Land Management Training and Employment Strategy – this multi-million dollar four-year strategy was formally signed off by participating agencies and communities in August 2000. It is providing accredited training and employment to approximately 70

Indigenous people across five major Lands Trust communities in the Top End of the Northern Territory, mainly in the area of Mimosa pigra control on their lands. The project involves substantial funding and in-kind support from the Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business, the Northern Territory Employment and Training Authority, Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, University, the Northern Land Council and the CDEP communities themselves. Evaluation of progress to date indicates that the project is exceeding expectations in many areas.

- The Mimosa Strategy – a five-year multi-agency project to control Mimosa pigra in the Northern Territory, that commenced in 1998 and has made significant progress towards exterminating and controlling this aggressive weed on Aboriginal lands.
- Anangu Pitjantjatjara (AP) Lands Revegetation Nursery – a project jointly funded by the ILC, NHT and AP that has established a plant nursery on the AP Lands in the north west of South Australia. Plants from the nursery, which include fruit trees and native species, are distributed to communities across the AP Lands for planting to provide a range of benefits including shelter, dust control and the provision of fresh fruit.

In their assessment and consultative activities CDO staff continue to engage with other agencies having land management responsibilities. This results in a significant proportion of approved projects having multi-agency support, including financial input. Such partnerships have also continued to be strengthened through the participation by CDO staff in a range of land management forums and committees with other agencies and organisations, including:

- SA NHT Regional Assessment Panel
- NT FarmBis State Planning Group
- Mimosa Management Committee
- VRD Feral Animal Advisory Group
- Indigenous Land Management Facilitator Steering Committees in South Australia and Victoria
- Yalata Indigenous Protected Areas Steering Committee
- Roper Aboriginal Enterprises Working Group
- Steering Committees for the Strategies for Aboriginal Managed Lands in SA and Victoria