



The Hon Jenny Macklin MP
Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
Minister for Disability Reform

Parliament House
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MN12-000056

14 MAR 2012

Dr Dawn Casey PSM FAHA
Chairperson
Indigenous Land Corporation
PO Box 38
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Dear Dr Casey

I write further to our recent conversation regarding your initial experiences as Chairperson of the Indigenous Land Corporation. During our conversation we discussed our joint desire to improve corporate governance practices at the Indigenous Land Corporation.

My department has recently raised concerns with me regarding these issues. These concerns centre on the governance arrangements that I understand have been implemented by the Indigenous Land Corporation, including those relating to its subsidiaries. I appreciate these arrangements were put in place before your tenure as Chairperson of the Board.

While I fully appreciate the statutory independence of the Indigenous Land Corporation, and the Board's responsibility for the implementation of appropriate and best practice governance arrangements for the delivery of its statutory objectives, as the responsible Minister under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, I am ultimately accountable to the Parliament of Australia for the performance of the Indigenous Land Corporation.

In your letter of appointment from me of 19 October 2011, I stated my expectation that you would oversee a period of governance change and provide strategic direction to the Indigenous Land Corporation Board and provide me with a Statement of Intent that will describe how the Indigenous Land Corporation will implement best practice governance arrangements and operate in a more transparent and accountable manner.

I recognise it is early in your period of tenure and I am grateful that you are already seriously progressing these matters. I strongly support your early and thorough focus on these areas.

You may be aware that I wrote to your predecessor on several occasions reminding her that under section 15(1) of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act*, the Indigenous Land Corporation must notify me of significant events. I also asked the Indigenous Land Corporation for written particulars about the proposed purchase and management arrangements for the Ayers Rock Resort. In response, I was provided limited financial, management and divestment information, and assurance that the purchase would have no adverse impact on the delivery of the Indigenous Land Corporation's operations. I was also advised that a new subsidiary called Indigenous Land Corporation Tourism would be established with an independent Board.

A recent search of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission register showed the existence of Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia Pty Ltd, which replaced Indigenous Land Corporation Tourism on 24 May 2011.

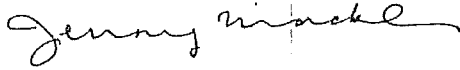
s47G(1)(a) - business

s47E(d) - certain operations of agencies

I request that the Board considers the issues I have raised with a view to ensuring that the Indigenous Land Corporation is operating on the basis of best practice governance principles. I would appreciate your advice on progress in due course.

I also understand that your most recent board meeting discussed issues around improving corporate government at the Indigenous Land Corporation, and its subsidiaries, and I would appreciate your prompt advice on progress on these important matters.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Jenny Macklin', written in dark ink.

JENNY MACKLIN MP