

From: [Neil Westbury](#)
To: [DILLON, Michael](#)
Subject: Fw: Draft Media Release and Australian Article below-suggest this go out before Press Club address
Date: Wednesday, 4 July 2012 6:53:50 AM

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Sent: Wednesday, 4 July 2012 6:44 AM
Subject: Draft Media Release and Australian Article below-suggest this go out before Press Club address

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Media Release from Dr Casey Chairperson Indigenous Land Corporation

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Move to oust chief in Indigenous Land Corporation power struggle

• BY:DENNIS SHANAHAN, POLITICAL EDITOR

• From: [The Australian](#)

• July 04, 2012 12:00AM

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MOVES are under way to oust the chief executive of the Indigenous Land Corporation, which controls six million hectares of property worth more than \$1 billion, only months after the board reappointed him for the good work he was doing.

New ILC chairwoman Dawn Casey, who was appointed late last year, told chief executive David Galvin last week the new board's "preferred position" was that his employment be terminated.

The move is part of a power struggle over how to approach indigenous investment between the

old board of the ILC on one side and the Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin and Dr Casey on the other.

It overturns a decision taken in October by the previous board and previous chairwoman, Shirley McPherson, to reappoint Mr Galvin as chief executive for four years to provide continuity of management.

Ms Macklin appointed Dr Casey to chair the ILC, whose assets include the Ayers Rock Resort in the Northern Territory, with the direct aim of countering the October decision and changing the audit processes for the indigenous investment arm.

There are divisions within the indigenous land management sector over the extent to which cultural or social benefits should determine approval for investment compared with job creation and business principles.

Dr Casey and Ms Macklin were yesterday celebrating NAIDOC week. Dr Casey will today present an address to the National Press Club in Canberra in which she argues that indigenous economic engagement in prosperous times means "more than just jobs".

The decision to remove Mr Galvin comes as the Gillard government tries to combine the operations of the ILC and Indigenous Business Australia, which absorbed the investment roles of ATSIC, and implement a new strategy for indigenous economic development. Dr Casey chairs both bodies. The audit committee of the ILC, a statutory body that assists indigenous people to buy and manage land and businesses, was also changed last week along the same lines as the IBA.

The spending control and investment guidelines of the IBA have recently been the centre of controversy after board members spent a day at Movie World and Dracula's Den theatre restaurant on the Gold Coast at taxpayers' expense. The IBA conference and team-building exercise, including a ride on a ghost train, fire-twirling and puppetry, cost \$28,000.

Mr Galvin has been given the opportunity to respond to the termination notice from the board and argue why the "preferred position" of termination should not be executed. The Indigenous Affairs Minister cannot appoint the chief executive but does appoint the board members and chair.

A spokesman for the ILC told The Australian last night that the corporation did not comment on personnel matters. He said Mr Galvin did not comment on ILC matters and The Australian could not contact Mr Galvin.

A spokesman for Ms Macklin said last night she supported "the efforts of the ILC board to ensure the ILC upholds the highest standards of governance".

Mr Galvin has overseen the takeover and development of the Ayers Rock Resort and lifted indigenous employment at the resort from virtually none to 135 last year. The statutory purpose of the ILC "is to assist indigenous people to acquire and manage land to achieve economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits".

The Ayers Rock Resort is the corporation's biggest investment but the ILC has also helped buy scores of farms, aged care facilities and offices.