



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

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MN11-001722

4 JUL 2011

Ms Shirley McPherson  
Chairperson  
Indigenous Land Corporation  
GPO Box 652  
ADELAIDE SA 5011

Dear Ms McPherson

I am writing about the impending expiry of the appointment term of the Indigenous Land Corporation's General Manager, Mr David Galvin, on 23 September 2011. I am also aware that all Board member appointments expire on either 19 September 2011 or 16 October 2011.

While the power to appoint the General Manager under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* rests with the Board, the appointment is a significant government appointment subject to the Cabinet Handbook (the Handbook) guidelines.

Under section 125 of the Handbook, significant appointments must be referred to the Prime Minister, the Hon Julia Gillard MP, seeking her or, at her discretion, Cabinet's approval of the appointment prior to it being finalised.

The Australian Government is keen for all significant appointments to have a strong, transparent merit-based selection process. Under section 128 of the Handbook, I am required to provide an account of the selection process, including particular justification when reappointment is proposed, in seeking the approval of the Prime Minister or Cabinet for a proposed appointment.

Given the timing of the General Manager's appointment relative to the Board appointments, you may wish to consider requesting my approval for an extension to Mr Galvin's appointment to provide continuity to the Indigenous Land Corporation's operations while Board appointments are settled and to give the Board time to consider its options. Under section 125(e) of the Handbook, Ministers are able to make acting appointments for up to three months without seeking the Prime Minister's approval.

Yours sincerely

JENNY MACKLIN MP