

## **Joe Morrison, Group CEO, ILSC**

### **Opening Statement – Additional Estimates, 18 February 2022**

- Thank you Chair and Senators for the opportunity to appear before you today.
- Despite the challenging operating environment caused by COVID-19 the ILSC achieved most of its targets for 2020-21 and is on track to deliver on its 2021-22 targets:
  - We have acquired 3 interests in land or waters for Indigenous people of our target of 8, with 2 more approved and yet to be settled
  - We have granted 7 interests to Indigenous corporations against our target of 8, with a further 5 approved and yet to transfer
  - We are above our target of 90 active acquisition and management projects, with 139 current active projects
  - And we have met or are on track to meet our Indigenous employment and training targets
- Our subsidiary Voyages has borne the brunt of COVID-19 related travel restrictions, with revenue down due to low visitor numbers. Ayers Rock Resort remains operational, retains staff and is preparing for what is expected to be a stronger peak tourism season later in the year.
- Our strategy of exiting Agribusiness operations continues with the exit of ILSC subsidiary Primary Partners from Roebuck Plains Station in the Kimberley region of Western Australia and its handover to Nyamba Buru Yawuru on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February.
- Plans to divest the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence (NCIE) site in Redfern Sydney continue, with a Transition Plan for the ILSC subsidiary operating at the site – NCIE Ltd – being approved by the ILSC and NCIE Ltd Boards in September 2021. Should a number of agreed milestones be met, the NSW Aboriginal Land Council will be the new owner of the NCIE site by 1 July this year, with a number of programs transitioned to local Indigenous service providers.
- We have also had significant changes at Board level, with the appointment of:
  - Ms Kate Healy and Mr Nigel Browne as Directors in October 2021
  - Mr Ian Hamm as Chair on 1 December 2021
  - Ms Gail Reynolds-Adamson as Director on 4 January 2022
  - And Ms Kirsty Masella as Director effective 16 March 2022
- These changes to our Board take effect as we embark on a significant period of consultation with Indigenous Australians on our National Indigenous Land and Sea Strategy, or NILSS, our key policy document at the ILSC. Our NILSS engagement will be supported for the first time, by a number of Indigenous experts and by the ideas and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people – we welcome the opportunity to engage with members of this Committee and other interested Members and Senators during this important consultation.
- Thank you Chair.