



Australian Government  
Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation



The ILSC GROUP

PEOPLE. COUNTRY. OPPORTUNITY.

## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

### Development of an Indigenous evaluation framework for Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation programs.

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#### Introduction

The Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC) is a corporate Commonwealth entity that was established in 1995 to address the historic dispossession of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We were previously known as the Indigenous Land Corporation and became the ILSC in 2019 when our scope was expanded to include salt and freshwater interests. Through enabling access and management of Country, we aim to generate economic, environmental, social, or cultural benefits for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This remains at the heart of what we do now and what we will continue to do.

The ILSC works in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations and peoples towards the generation of positive outcomes with and for Aboriginal persons and Torres Strait Islanders through the use, management, care and improvement of Country. In doing so, the ILSC realises its vision for *Indigenous Australians to enjoy the rightful entitlements, opportunities and benefits that the return and management of Country brings.*

The ILSC is seeking to create a best practise Evaluation Framework which centres the priorities, preferences and perspectives of Indigenous Australians through meaningful involvement, and which aligns with the Productivity Commission's Indigenous Evaluation Strategy (IES). The ILSC's objective is to strengthen Indigenous involvement in all levels of the ILSC's performance framework and associated continuous improvement processes, and in doing so to become a recognised champion of the ethical standards set out in the IES.

To support the ILSC to achieve its objective, we are seeking a suitably qualified technical expert(s) to support the development of an Indigenous Evaluation Framework. This Framework will not only guide the way in which process, outcome and impact evaluations involving Indigenous Australians are conducted by the ILSC, it will also assist us in identifying and prioritising what evaluations are to be undertaken.

#### Background

The ILSC has adapted a value for money<sup>1</sup> (VfM) methodology at the heart of its current performance framework. The VfM methodology enables the ILSC to make evaluative judgments from the available evidence to determine the extent to which the ILSC is making the best use of its resources at project, program and whole-of-organisation scales.

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<sup>1</sup> The ILSC's Performance Framework is specifically based on the 'Value for Investment' approach, which is used globally to evaluate complex and hard-to-measure programs and policy reforms (King J (2019) *Evaluation and Value for Money: Development of an approach using explicit evaluative reasoning*. Doctoral dissertation. University of Melbourne.

This approach recognises the importance of considering both quantitative and qualitative evidence, and provides a cohesive narrative that puts flesh on the bones of the data – validating, contextualising and giving voice to the performance story behind the numbers.

The current framework focuses primarily on the ILSC's performance from its own perspective. The Indigenous Evaluation Framework should provide guidance on how to incorporate the priorities, preferences and perspectives of Indigenous Australians. This will ensure our assessment of performance and evaluation is comprehensive, credible, useful, and improves (and doesn't harm) outcomes for Indigenous Australians.

The ILSC undertook national consultation to develop the National Land and Sea Strategy (NILSS). This involved the ILSC seeking guidance from Indigenous Australians on areas they would like the ILSC to play a more active role.

One of the priorities of the NILSS and its consultation was to ensure Indigenous involvement in all aspects of the ILSC. The development of this Indigenous Evaluation Framework provides a sustained approach for Indigenous involvement in ensuring the VfM proposition as well as improved direction for the organisation.

## Objectives of engagement

The ILSC seeks a suitably qualified technical expert or experts to:

- Assist with driving ongoing maturation of the ILSC performance framework by assisting in developing a complimentary Indigenous Evaluation Framework.
- Provide expert, specialist and technical advice on operationalising the Indigenous Evaluation Framework in a way that centres the perspectives, priorities and knowledges of Indigenous Australians.
- Provide expert, specialist and technical advice on developing and implementing the Indigenous Evaluation Framework reflecting organisations and stakeholder priorities, including policy, project and program evaluations
- Contribute expert, culturally-safe advice on project development, monitoring, evaluation and reporting and improvement activities to internal and external stakeholders
- Contribute expert, technical and culturally-safe advice on development of a model Indigenous Advisory Panel.
- Contribute expert, specialist, technical and culturally-safe advice on improvement recommendations for existing ILSC Portfolio Budget Statement targets and associated indicators currently used in the ILSC's performance framework.
- Assist in identification and application of suitable risk control measures to minimise arising risks.
- Undertake other activities, as required, to contribute to the efficient and effective functioning of the ILSC.

## Scope of Work

The final deliverables will be expected to provide the ILSC with the following:

1. An evaluation framework that centres the priorities and perspectives of Indigenous Australians, to be used to guide all evaluation process across the ILSC.
2. Design and establish an Indigenous Advisory Panel, to provide guidance to the project during development as well as ongoing input into evaluation priorities.
3. Recommendations for improving existing Portfolio Budget Statement targets and associated indicators of the ILSC performance framework to reflect culturally meaningful Indigenous aspirations for economic development and managing country.

## Selection process

The ILSC will be undertaking a multi-stage approach to selecting a provider for this work with expressions of interest only being sought at this stage. Once all expressions of interest have been received and assessed, shortlisted providers will be asked to proceed to submit a more detailed proposal and budget against the scope of works.

### Stage 1 – expression of interest

Interested parties are now invited to submit an expression of interest to undertake this work for the ILSC. The expression of interest should include the following:

1. A high-level outline of their approach to develop an Indigenous Evaluation Framework, this should also demonstrate:
  - Understanding of the tension between delivering a fit for purpose framework within the context of a Commonwealth corporate entity and undertaking Indigenous evaluation work in a culturally appropriate manner.
  - Understanding of the 'Value for Investment' methodology.
2. A capability statement should be included outlining previous work, of a similar nature which the organisation has completed, including lessons learned within those previous projects and how the organisation has modified any practice.
3. Proposed team members or partners should be outlined, including indications on whether any Indigenous people will be engaged to work on this project with you and/or other opportunities that may arise for Indigenous people through this project.

## Timeframe

Expressions of interest should be returned to the ILSC no later than 5pm, 20 December 2023.

## Submissions

Please direct any questions and email your proposal to:

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