

# Media Statement

Klynton Wanganeen  
Commissioner for Aboriginal  
Engagement

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**Monday 24 October 2011**

## **New Appointments to Indigenous Land Corporation Board**

Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement, Klynton Wanganeen, congratulates the new appointments to the Board of the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) that were announced by the Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs last Friday.

However, with the new Chairperson, Dr Dawn Casey, and new Deputy Chairperson, Mr Ian Trust, being the same as for Indigenous Business Australia (IBA), Mr Wanganeen now has concerns about how each organisation will operate independently.

“How will the Chair and Deputy Chair handle issues of conflict? Do they both declare that conflict and leave the room”, asked the Commissioner.

“From my perspective, as an Aboriginal Leader in South Australia, both organisations need to lift their game in relation to supporting South Australian Aboriginal people as we have not been serviced well by the ILC nor have we had much success with IBA from Canberra”.

The Commissioner feels that rather than having two separate boards there could be a single board with two small centralised administration/program units and devolved responsibility and funds set aside for each State and Territory.

“This would ensure control over land purchases and business development at the local level,” said the Commissioner.

“Therefore no State or Territory would miss out as has happened since day one of the life of both ILC & IBA. Currently between both organisations they have a capital base that is in excess of \$2.7b of which very little gets to South Australian Aboriginal communities, organisations or people.”

“South Australian Aboriginal people’s notional share of that capital base would equate to approximately \$550m and would easily underpin a move from welfare dependency and reliance on the twelve monthly government funding cycle.”

“Both the ILC and the IBA have not had a history of working together. It seems to me that the appointment of new Chair and Deputy Chair signals a way of ensuring that they do in fact work together,” said the Commissioner.

Whatever the new appointments mean for the ILC, the Commissioner hopes that the change will ensure that both organisations work more collaboratively and that the South Australian Aboriginal community will see greater benefits.

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