

26 April 2024

Commissioner Joanne Chong
Anne Poelina, Associate Commissioner
Productivity Commission, National Water Reform 2024 Inquiry

Via email: water.reform.2024@pc.gov.au

Dear Commissioners

Re: National Water Reform 2024 Inquiry – Feedback on Interim Report

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a response to the Interim Report on behalf of the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC).

As indicated in our prior submission, the ILSC supports and endorses the recommendations made by the Interim First Nations Water Working Group (FNWWG), both in their initial feedback to the National Water Reform 2024 Inquiry, and on this Interim Report. The ILSC is also supportive of the work of the Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Water Interests (CAWI) and the recommendations made in their Insights Paper in determining the direction for National Water Reforms.

The ILSC believes that the independent nature of the FNWWG adds significant value to the policy and advocacy dialogue in First Nations water interests. The FNWWG seeks to work in a complementary manner to facilitate the development of an independent, First Nations led, nationally consistent approach to First Nations' water rights.

The Interim Report sets out the Commission's preliminary assessment of jurisdictions' progress towards meeting the outcome and objective of the 2004 National Water Initiative and proposes that the goal of a renewed NWI should be modernised by referencing climate change and First Nations. The ILSC is generally supportive of the Productivity Commission's proposal for a renewed NWI (as captured in figure 3 on page 8 of the Interim Report), and the focus on modernising the NWI to better reflect community standards and expectations relating to First Nations water interests, including opportunities to increase ownership and to better derive an economic benefit from water.

Should you or your department require any further information or detail on the proposals raised in this submission please contact my office directly via Rebecca Hayden, General Manager Policy, Strategy and Performance.

Yours sincerely

Joe Morrison
Group Chief Executive Officer