

# Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2026

**Submission No:** 081

**Submission By:** Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation

**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public

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Australian Government

Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation



The ILSC GROUP



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20 March 2026

State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Committee Chair

### **Re: Inquiry into Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2026**

On 4 March 2026, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, introduced the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2026 into the Queensland Parliament and referred it to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee for examination. The committee is required to report on its examination of the Bill by 17 April 2026 and has called for submissions addressing any aspect of the Bill from all interested parties.

#### **The Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation**

The [Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation](#) (ILSC) is a corporate Commonwealth entity established in 1995 under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005 (Cth). The ILSC's Our Country Our Future (OCOF) program achieves outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through the acquisition and management of land, salt-water and freshwater.

#### **ILSC Strategy**

The ILSC's latest [National Indigenous Land and Sea Strategy](#) (NILSS) reaffirms the ILSC's key role as the lead national agency partnering with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the return and management of Country and sets a clear agenda for the coming years. Under the NILSS, the ILSC has introduced strategic Investment Priorities for OCOF funding that are designed to meet our commitments, such as:

- Support First Nations leadership in NILSS priority industry sectors - carbon and environmental markets, fisheries and aquaculture, inland water and renewables and clean energy
- Support the Acquisition of Water and Water-related rights and interests
- Prioritise investment for First Nations groups that do not have, or have limited access to Country

#### **Native Title**

The ILSC is pleased to have the opportunity to provide a submission to this inquiry and wish to highlight that the waterways in question largely fall within the Kabi Kabi Peoples Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC native title determinations. There may also be relevant waterways present within the registered Jinibara People Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC claim area. We note that engagement regarding the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2026 should rightfully extend to registered Native Title Holders and registered Native Title Claimants, as per the provisions of the Native Title Act.

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## Request for Changes to the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2026

### 1. Clause 15

- Clause 15 provides that the SCWA must, from time to time, develop a strategy and submit it for the Minister's approval. Once the strategy is submitted, the Minister must either approve it or direct the SCWA to make amendments to it. This provision also requires that, in developing the strategy, the SCWA must have regard to the Act's purpose, must consult with MSQ, the Moreton Bay City Council (MBCC), the Noosa Shire Council (NSC) and the Sunshine Coast Regional Council (SCRC), and must take reasonable steps to consult with the public. This clause also provides that the strategy must have regard to any agreement or arrangement between the State and MBCC, NSC or SCRC about navigational access to, marine infrastructure for, or management of, the Sunshine Coast waterways.
- **The ILSC requests Clause 15 be updated to include that SCWA must consult with Native Title Holders and Claimants.**

### 2. Clause 19

- Clause 19 provides that, in developing the waterways management program, the SCWA must take reasonable steps to consult with MSQ, MBCC, NSC, SCRC, and the public.
- **The ILSC requests Clause 19 be updated to include SCWA must take reasonable steps to consult with Native Title Holders and Claimants.**

### 3. Clause 27

- Clause 27 provides that the Minister may recommend a person for appointment as a board member only if satisfied that they are not disqualified from appointment under section 33 and that they are appropriately qualified in at least one of the following areas:
  - Accounting
  - corporate governance
  - finance
  - management of entities delivering public services
  - commercial and marketing development
  - maritime business
  - environmental management
  - marine science
  - marine, coastal or waterways planning
  - marine, coastal, waterways or infrastructure engineering
  - the representation of the interests of stakeholders in Sunshine Coast waterways including, for example, native title holders, industry, recreational waterway users, tourism operators and interested groups
  - another area the Minister considers relevant to achieving the purpose of this Act.
- **The ILSC considers it essential that one of the seven SCWA board member positions is allocated for Indigenous representation. The ILSC also requests consideration of the establishment of an Indigenous Advisory Group to inform the SCWA on First Nations perspectives on water management.**

We thank the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee for the opportunity to provide comment on this legislation that is of great importance to the First Nations Peoples of the Sunshine Coast.

Sincerely,



Nyaree Mewett  
Eastern Division General Manager