

Facts at a glance

Aboriginal Lands Trust

- The *Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972* establishes the Aboriginal Lands Trust (ALT), a body composed of Aboriginal people, appointed by the Minister for Indigenous Affairs.
- Its primary function is to acquire and hold land and to use and manage that land for the benefit of Indigenous people in accordance with their wishes.
- The Department of Indigenous Affairs supports the ALT to facilitate transfer of land to Aboriginal control, sustainably manage the land, and provides advice to the ALT, Aboriginal people, other government departments and other stakeholders about the care, control and management of Aboriginal land.
- The ALT estate covers about 27 million hectares of land in Western Australia, which is about 12 per cent of the state.
- The ALT operates under a series of policies and guidelines, that cover issues such as burials on ALT land, commercial opportunities, transfer of land, land use and development and leasing charges associated with the administration of the ALT estate.
- Additional ALT roles include consultation, negotiation or management of activities, working on projects to improve or better use the land, and entering into financial arrangements which will benefit the local Aboriginal people.
- Trust members are chosen for their expertise in land and sea management, Indigenous business and economic development and Indigenous housing and infrastructure development.
- The terms of membership of trust members are staggered to ensure strong continuity. At January 2009, the board members are:
 - Ron (Doc) Reynolds, Chairperson;
 - Gordon Cole;
 - Gail Beck;
 - Kevin Giles;
 - Betty Logan;
 - Preston Thomas;
 - Joe Ross; and
 - Dorothy Tucker.
- The Aboriginal Lands Trust meets every two months. Meeting dates and locations are posted on dia.wa.gov.au

