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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Thursday, 17 June 2010

### **New agreement to deliver governance programs for Indigenous organisations**

Agricultural Management Company (AMC) and the Australian Institute of Company Directors have signed a groundbreaking Agreement to deliver governance and leadership training to Indigenous owned organisations in regional Australia through the *Indigenous Governance Program* (IGP).

The IGP was originally developed by the Australian Institute of Company Directors with Indigenous Business Australia.

Recognising the potential synergies between the IGP and AMC's expertise in providing agricultural management and consultancy services to Indigenous owned organisations, AMC Managing Director, Charlie Blomfield approached the Australian Institute of Company Directors with a partnership proposal earlier this year.

AMC has a strong track record in the provision of management and consultancy services to large-scale Indigenous organisations across the country; organisations that the Australian Institute of Company Directors was keen to reach out to with governance education opportunities.

Mr Blomfield said, "Our shared aim is to provide an all-inclusive enterprise development service to Indigenous organisations in regional Australia. The longstanding reputation and experience of both organisations will contribute to developing the capacity of communities to organically increase regional Indigenous training and employment.

"The benefits of our partnership will be twofold; firstly, through regional community development, and secondly, in developing and increasing the overall participation of Indigenous-owned organisations in regional Australia, particularly in the North Australian pastoral industry," he said.

Mr Blomfield said the potential for Indigenous organisations to play a huge role in the North Australian pastoral industry is clear.

Since the early 1970s, the Australian Federal and State governments have been purchasing privately owned land and returning certain Crown land to Indigenous communities. For example, the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* has transferred almost 50 per cent of the land in the Northern Territory (around 600,000km<sup>2</sup>) to collective Indigenous ownership.

"The driving factor for this training is that many of these communities are very eager to be involved in the governance of their land," he said.

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