Australia’s Perspective
WIPO Intergovernmental Committee
Traditional Knowledge, Traditional Cultural Expressions, and Genetic Resources
Scope

- Australia’s Interests
- Policy Objectives
- Key Issues
- Moving Forward
- Questions
Australia’s Interests

- Diverse, vibrant and living indigenous cultures, rich in Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions.
- Mega diverse continent rich in genetic resources
- Mature Bio-Tech industry
- Mature legal and IP system
Policy Objectives

- Developing efficient, effective and transparent mechanisms to protect TK, TCE and GRs, which:
  - balances the needs of the owners, including traditional owners, and the users of the system;
  - supports access, were appropriate, to these resources, in support of a good society, so they can be used for the benefit of all communities; and
  - ensures benefits are shared fairly and equitably, particularly without detriment to, and to the benefit of indigenous cultures and communities.
Key Issues

• Complex international policy environment with competing interests economic and social.
• Significant practical issues still to be analysed and addressed if international and domestic mechanisms are to be effective and efficient.
• Gaining Broad International Agreement
• Consultation and Engagement with Indigenous Communities
Moving Forward

• Well planned, managed and focused IGC Work Program
• 15th IGC must set the right atmosphere and direction for the future work of the IGC
• IGC Leadership
• Technical Experts Discussions
• Informal Discussions – Regional Workshops
• Acceptance that change is required – making the IP System fit for purpose in the knowledge age
Milestones in IP History

1883 - Paris Convention
1891 - Madrid Agreement
1925 - Hague Agreement
1967 - WIPO established
1978 - PCT came into force
1994 - TRIPS
2000 - Patent Law Treaty
2010 - What will be next?

Is the IP system fit for purpose for today’s global knowledge economy?
Questions