Aboriginal Engagement and Water
About Aboriginal people

Many nations, and many perspectives

Broad commonalities

* Worldviews and the Dreaming
* Colonial experience
* Present day disadvantage
What is the Dreaming?

* Foundation of all rights and interests in water/land

* Context of Country (map in the head)

“Aboriginal people didn’t carry a map, or a rock, or a bit of stick with a map or something on it. Their map was inside their minds, or inside their ‘brains’ as some people like to call it. And also inside their heart. Inside their heart they will hold it very strongly.

Margaret Ketermin Turner, Arrernte Elder
Characteristics of Indigenous worldviews

* Holistic (v Reductionist)
* Cyclical (v Linear)
* Process-orientated (v results-orientated)
Aboriginal Engagement - What is it?

* Effective engagement is a sustained process that provides Indigenous people with the opportunity to actively participate in decision making

* Historical Disadvantage
* The Value of Aboriginal water / ecological knowledge
* Economic - Employment / Business / Community / Ranger
* Self Determination - Rights to have a say
Aboriginal Engagement - Drivers

* Native Title - LAA / ILUA’s
* CSR - Corporate Social Responsibility
* Closing the Gap - Federal and State Policy
* Aboriginal Leadership
Aboriginal Engagement - What does this mean for water?

* Cultural / Enviro - Needs to continue to be a primary driver

* Holistic approach - Cultural / Enviro / Economic interface

* Economic - Employment, Training, business opportunities, asset management
Aboriginal Engagement - Economic Partnerships

* Aboriginal Interests - Native Title Groups, Individual Aboriginal businesses, Community organisations / Ranger Programs

* Resource sector interests -
  * Mostly dewatering,
  * overlapping water issues between companies
  * cumulative impacts - upstream dewatering / downstream impacts
  * Conveyancing needs - getting the water to where it needs to go
Aboriginal Engagement - Economic Partnerships

Water Resource

Regional Approach

Third Party Model
Aboriginal Engagement - Economic Partnerships

* Extracting - Bore Fields / maintainence
* Conveyancing - pumping systems, energy, transport
* Treatment - making the water suitable for use
* End use Services - Dust Suppression etc
The post mining economy - Agribusiness?

* Mine closure - infrastructure assets? Rail, Road, Bore fields, Port, energy

* Continue to manage water as an asset for the region a legacy for future generations...