



Media Release

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NAILSMA to take Indigenous positions to the 2020 Summit

Delegates of the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA) will take Indigenous positions to the Australian Governments 2020 Summit that is being held in Canberra on the 19 and 20 April.

NAILSMA delegates attending the Summit include the Chairperson, Mr. Peter Yu, the Executive Officer Mr. Joe Morrison, and Mr. Joe Ross, the Chairperson of the Indigenous Water Policy Group (a NAILSMA water initiative). NAILSMA delegates will be highlighting a number of Indigenous positions under the 2020 Summits Sustainability and Climate Change Theme.

Mr. Joe Morrison acknowledges, "given the recent change in government, the current epoch is an opportune time for Indigenous people to inform innovative policy that is suited to the requirements of the north of Australia".

From NAILSMA's perspective, the approach for a national dialogue could be based on principles previously articulated by renowned Indigenous leader, Mr. Patrick Dodson. Fundamental principles for that approach are founded on mutual respect for different views and political positions; upholding the highest standards of international human rights; maintaining cultural and social values as integral components for building Australia's nation; and, bringing about change that will contribute to a better sense of Australian nationhood.

Peter Yu explains the concept of a Culture Based Economy. "This is an economy that supports the cultural business of Indigenous land and sea management, supports the credibility and integrity of cultural transactions locally and across the North and leads to innovative commercial opportunities".

"The last decade has seen the need to act strategically, to articulate where development can occur, how, and what benefits will arise from them, and, how Indigenous people will share in these benefits. The 2020 Summit also provides the opportunity to further articulate NAILSMA's 'Culture Based Economy' approach", says Mr. Morrison.

A NAILSMA discussion paper that will be presented at the 2020 Summit can be downloaded from the NAILSMA website: www.nailsma.org.au

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