

## **Indigenous voice on north Australian water futures**

4<sup>th</sup> August 2009

Indigenous people from northern Australia are coming together to discuss their interests and views on water at a forum being held in Mary River 5-6 August.

The north Australian Indigenous Experts Water Futures Forum will convene up to 80 key Indigenous experts strategically involved in water.

Convened by the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance, the Northern Land and Water Taskforce is seeking to consult with Indigenous people in north Australia on their water interests and issues.

Joe Morrison, CEO NAILSMA, highlights the forum as an opportunity for Indigenous people across the whole of the north to discuss a common way forward for the future of water on Indigenous land and sea estates.

“The forum allows north Australian Indigenous people to raise their interests and concerns about economic development and opportunities, the complexity of institutional roles and responsibilities and a proper process regarding development” he says.

“Water is a complex issue that needs strong leadership to integrate development and Indigenous disadvantage with Indigenous social, economic and cultural connections to water resources”.

Outcomes from the Forum will include a set of recommendations for the Taskforce on Indigenous interests, aspirations for sustainable development, relationships and governance arrangements and tools needed to put northern Australian Indigenous aspirations in place.

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NAILSMA is an alliance of Kimberley Land Council, Northern Land Council, Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Cooperation and Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation.

Media Contacts:

To arrange an interview with Mr. Joe Morrison, please contact Jessica Lew-Fatt.

Tel: 08 8946 7691

Fax: 08 8946 6388

Email: [Jessica.LewFatt@cdu.edu.au](mailto:Jessica.LewFatt@cdu.edu.au)

For more information about the Water Futures Forum, visit the NAILSMA Forum web site [www.nailsma.org.au](http://www.nailsma.org.au).

NAILSMA Alliance  
Kimberley Land Council  
Northern Land Council  
Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation  
Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation