



North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance

November, 2011

Ooloo Indigenous Water Forum Bulletin

Joe Ross, Chair of NAILSMA's [Indigenous Water Policy Group](#), stressed at the forum the importance of governments engaging Indigenous people in all water reform processes. "It is important to take time and work together. We need to think about what government are planning for water so we are better engaged and are part of making decisions," said Mr Ross.

The Ooloo Indigenous Water Forum provided an opportunity for Traditional Owners to hear back on Indigenous led research on the proposed Strategic Indigenous Reserve and hear from government and the [Daly River Management Advisory Committee](#) about their roles in the development of the [DRAFT Ooloo Water Allocation Plan](#).

The forum was successful as an exchange between Traditional Owners in the Ooloo and [Mataranka water plan](#) areas. Alan Maroney, Chair of the Mataranka Traditional Owner Water Allocation Reference Group (MTOWARG), shared aspirations for a future economic opportunity from the Strategic Indigenous Reserve, but acknowledged more needs to be done in terms of getting the engagement process with government right in the first instance. "We are looking to the Daly River Aboriginal Reference Group [DRARG, covers Ooloo] to learn from their experiences when dealing with government processes," said Mr. Maroney. MTOWARG is seeking formal support to manage its operations similar to the DRARG.

The forum supported the NAILSMA draft report on the Strategic Indigenous Reserve in the Northern Territory, which is based on findings from participatory action based research conducted with Traditional Owners within the Ooloo and Mataranaka Water Allocation Plan areas. Participants at the forum are keen to work toward a submission to the DRAFT Ooloo Water Allocation Plan once released by the Minister.

[NAILSMA](#) and the [Northern Land Council](#) supported the Forum and will continue to work with community in delivering outcomes from the forum.

For more information about the Ooloo Water Forum visit the NAILSMA website:
<http://www.nailsma.org.au/forum/ooloo-indigenous-water-forum/ooloo-indigenous-water-forum.html>

For more information about the IWPG visit the NAILSMA website:
http://www.nailsma.org.au/projects/water_policy.html.

Media contact: Robin.Macgillivray@cdu.edu.au | Project Contact: water@cdu.edu.au