

Standing Together for Water Rights

"We must take part in all Water Reforms."



"We are the bosses of country."

"Water, land and people can't be separated."



"We have cultural laws to look after water."



"We don't want younger generations to live with the same hardship we older ones did."

North Australian Indigenous Experts Water Futures Forum

In August 2009, about 80 Indigenous water experts from north Australia convened at Mary River Park in the N.T. to discuss and present their water interests and issues to the Northern Land and Water Taskforce.

Convened by the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA), the Forum provided an opportunity to raise ideas and concerns about economic development and opportunities; the potential impacts of development in north Australia; and governance and institutional arrangements as they affect Indigenous community interests, aspirations and issues.

The Mary River Statement is the major outcome of the Forum. It demonstrates the seriousness of Indigenous people's contribution and participation in policy decision making.

Indigenous representatives elected during the Forum are ready to facilitate a broader dialogue with Indigenous groups across north Australia.



www.nailsma.org.au



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