



NORTHERN LAND COUNCIL

Our Land, Our Sea, Our Life

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Our ref: F2021/0169

National Water Reform Inquiry

Lodged online only water.reform.2020@pc.gov.au

Dear Commissioners,

SUBMISSION: NATIONAL WATER REFORM 2020

On behalf of the Northern Land Council, I thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Productivity Commission's report on National Water Reform 2020.

The Northern Land Council is an independent statutory authority responsible for assisting Aboriginal people in the northern region of the Northern Territory to acquire and manage their traditional lands and waters.

The Northern Land Council's vision is for a Territory in which the rights and responsibilities of every Traditional Owner are recognised and in which Aboriginal people benefit economically, socially and culturally from the secure possession of their lands, freshwater, seas and intellectual property. Our mission is to assist Aboriginal people in the northern region of the Northern Territory to acquire and manage their traditional lands and seas, through strong leadership, advocacy, industry engagement and management.

Water is of great importance to Aboriginal Territorians. The Northern Land Council constituents view land, water and people as being inextricably connected. They have cultural and kinship responsibilities and obligations under customary law to look after water, and a responsibility for maintaining water places so as to ensure sustainability is achieved for the whole environment and everything that it supports.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ms Bridie Velik-Lord, our Environmental Policy Officer
[redacted] to discuss this submission in greater detail.

Yours sincerely,

Marion Scrymgeour

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

22 March 2021

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