

Bringing Aboriginal people into water planning – lessons from the Daly River

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Overview

- The *visioning and scenario tools* selected and employed
- The *development of scenarios* for the Daly River catchment
- The *perceptions of ARG* members regarding the role of Aboriginal people in influencing water policy



Daly River: focal catchment



Visioning and scenario tools

“I think it is fairly well accepted now that if you want any policy – water or otherwise - to work then you need to have local communities aware and involved in the process.” (Husey 2007)

- ❑ Stella computer program (scenario model)
 - ❑ Targeted training options
 - ❑ Recording of “change stories”
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Development of scenarios

- Stella computer program (scenario model)
 - Aboriginal vision
 - Climate change implication
 - Converting Aboriginal views into media that is understood or compares well with other stakeholders.
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Development of scenarios cont.

- Targeted training options
 - Eg. Understanding policy process → session by government explaining policy making process → ARG facilitator organise

- Change stories
 - Assists with concern re: ARG's relationship with researchers



The Daly River Aboriginal Reference Group (ARG)



- 2004: Community Reference Group
 - Recognised insufficient Aboriginal representation
- 2006: ARG
 - 8 language groups, approx. 22 active members (male & female from each language group) covering approx. 53 000km².
 - ARG advised by senior T/O's
 - Representation (male & female) on the Daly River Management Advisory Committee (DRMAC)

ARG represented on DRMAC

Impact of ARG?

- ❑ Role of ARG
- ❑ Impact of ARG?
- ❑ ARG being heard?



Perceptions on Aboriginal people influencing water policy



- Views on the *past* role of Aboriginal people influencing water policy in the Daly
 - *Current* views for the Daly
 - *Future* hopes for the Daly
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THANKYOU

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