

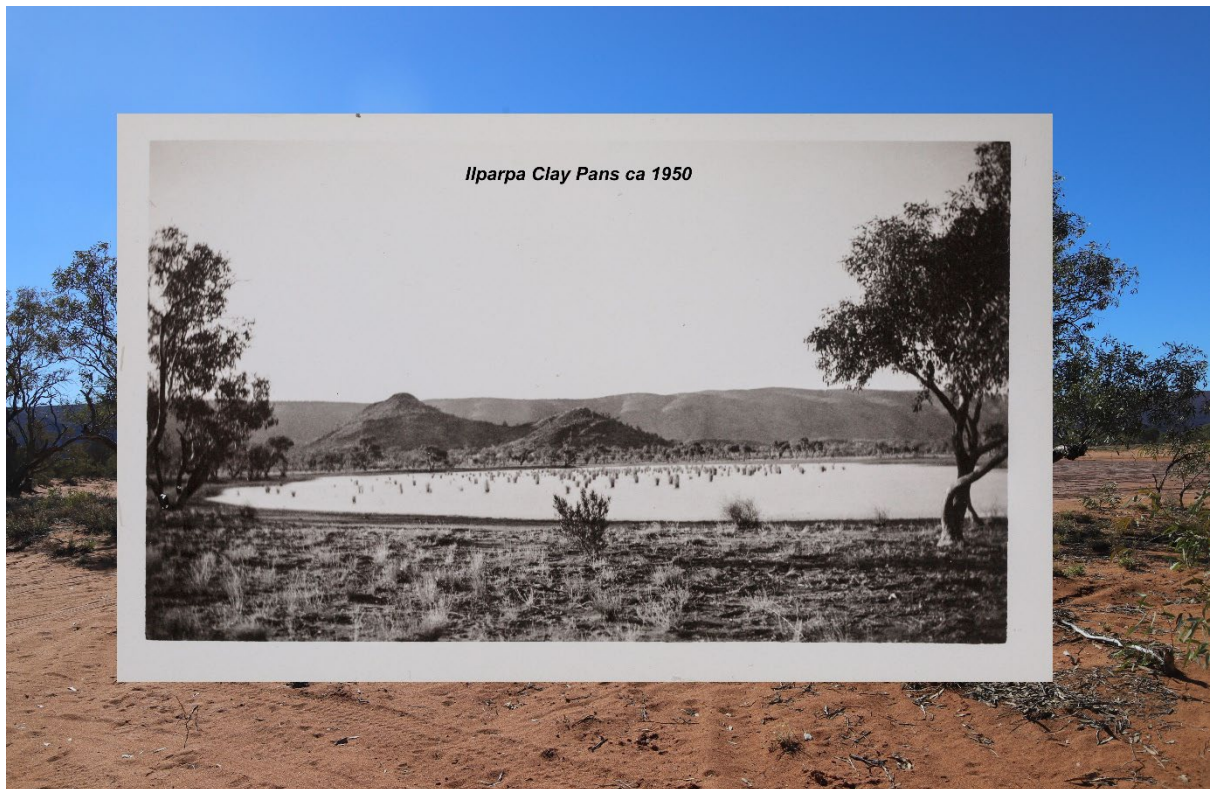
# Talking Water

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*kwatye angkeme*

**Alice Springs Water Control District**  
Community Engagement Campaign October-November 2021

## Community Submission



*Ilparpa Clay Pans ca 1950*

[Credit: House Elf Adventures, Facebook]

### **Referencing of First Peoples**

The writer has used the term 'Aboriginal' throughout the text in line with the recommendations of the Aboriginal Affairs Sub-Committee of Cabinet of the Northern Territory Government for use in all communications within the Northern Territory, including schools, from 23 May 2017. The Aboriginal Affairs Sub-Committee of Cabinet also noted that the term 'Aboriginal' be inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

### **Acknowledgment of Country**

The Desert Knowledge Research Institute and Talking Water Collective acknowledge the Arrernte people as the Traditional Owners of the land on which we work, and pay respect to their connection to country and to Elders past, present and future.

We acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first knowledge holders of this land.

### **Talking Water Collective and DKRI Acknowledgment**

The writer acknowledges with appreciation the considerable review, input and advice given by members of the Talking Water Collective, listed in Attachment 2, into the writing of this submission. The writer also acknowledges the team at the Desert Knowledge Research Institute, Tracy Jones and Jeanette Elliot in particular, for their assistance in the production of this document.

The Desert Knowledge Research Institute was funded by the Northern Territory Government's Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security, to facilitate and support the partnerships, community engagement campaign and the writing of this resultant submission. That support is gratefully acknowledged.

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### **Publisher**

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## Document purpose

This is the Alice Springs Water Control District (the 'District') Community Submission to the Northern Territory Government's consultation to help formulate the NT Strategic Water Plan.

This submission is a summary of community engagement activities carried out under the Talking Water – Kwatye Angkeme banner during October-November 2021. It aims to fairly represent the views gathered across that time and reflect the prioritisation and emphasis of the views put forward. It does not purport to represent the views of the whole community, nor reflect the personal views of the individuals or organisations who participated in the process.

This document was written by John Huigen who facilitated the partnership process and the various community engagement activities on behalf of the Desert Knowledge Research Institute (DKRI). DKRI was contracted by the NT Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security to provide the backbone to the collaborative project.

The strategy, design and realisation of the five community-focused workshops was very much a 'team effort' of a number of [people and organisations, working as a Collective for common purpose](#). The Collective Workgroup reviewed this Submission, responding to the key question: "Does it fairly represent what was said, discussed and emphasised during the process?" Notwithstanding this peer review, this document does not represent the view of any one organisation or person involved in this project, including DKRI.



## Executive Summary

The *Talking Water – Kwatye Angkeme* campaign and series of community engagement activities in Alice Springs considered water and the issues around it for the town and the wider district. This process was collectively supported by a wide range of partners, with the Desert Knowledge Research Institute (DKRI) being the backbone and facilitating partner.

One of the aims of the project was to provide input into the Northern Territory's consultation into the development of the [NT Strategic Water Plan and Directions Paper](#).

This paper outlines the campaign and community engagement process, the finding and suggestions, and summarises the broad priorities of the participants, mapped to the 10 proposed directions outlined in the [Directions Paper](#).

The top four priorities are:

- **Drinking water is safe** and of consistent quality across the whole of the Territory.
  - This is assured through being legislated, regulated and monitored, and includes protection of water catchment from pollution, water reuse standards that enable effective water recycling and addresses water quality issues in outstations.
- **Water use is efficient and productive**, supported by policies and legislation that incentivises efficient use of water and disincentivises inefficient water use. This is not just at the consumer level but also the supplier level. Demand reduction should be supported by on-going community education and engagement offering practical solutions to reduce water demand.
- **Everyone needs to be engaged in water stewardship**, with everyone taking responsibility for helping to create a more secure water future. This can only be achieved through an ongoing community and business education and engagement program working to make Alice Springs an example of world's best practice in water efficiency.
  - Similar to the 2011-13 Alice Water Smart program.
  - This is especially important in a community with such a high turnover of people.
- **Water governance** is contemporary and coordinated, guided by a well-articulated and understood hierarchy of values that favours long-term benefits, which is open, transparent and actively builds trust in decision-making.
  - Aboriginal people need to be consistently part of the governance of water and listened to
  - Regulatory responsibility should be separated from decision-making to avoid any erosion of that trust through real or perceived conflicts of interest – e.g. The Water Controller should be independent of government

The subsequent two priorities are as follows:

- **Aboriginal connections to water are valued** by their involvement in water governance through an Aboriginal water reference group which meets consistently and is listened to. Their deep concerns about the state of water-dependent places of significance including sacred sites, dreaming tracks, and other sites of cultural value should be acknowledged and acted upon.
- **Water-dependent environmental values are protected** because there is almost universal concern that these have been, or are being, very significantly damaged by development. The negative impacts of trading off environmental values for development should be avoided, and climate change actively considered.

Talking Water – Kwatye Angkeme was successful in building key partnerships and a cohort of people committed to the water security of the District. It laid the foundations (and expectations) for the realisation of on-going community stewardship of water, including community 'governance' and involvement in the development and realisation of an on-going community education and engagement program – priorities considered essential for improving water security for the District.

## Background

This submission is a direct response to the NTG's present consultation ('the Consultation') on the NT Strategic Water Plan and their Directions Paper<sup>1</sup> (September 2021).

However, the strategy, partnerships and wider aims of the campaign are grounded in a long history of community and inter-organisational cooperation around water issues in Alice Springs – Desert Knowledge Australia, COOLmob, and the Alice Water Smart program (2011-13) are examples.

More recently, the mid-period review of the Alice Springs Water Allocation Plan, by the Ministerially-appointed Review Committee<sup>2</sup> brought together a number of people who, for many years, have worked to help create a more secure water future for the District. The review made 13 recommendations, many of which relate directly to issues raised in the Directions Paper (governance, need for on-going Aboriginal involvement, the importance of a shared 'water story' for Alice Springs that engenders shared responsibility for water use, including a community Water Forum, are examples).

The Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security took the opportunity to support community engagement with the Consultation, which would also help take forward some of these recommendations.

The Desert Knowledge Research Institute (DKRI) was engaged to manage this project, and to engage John Huigen to be the Project Facilitator.

## Collective effort

The Facilitator brought all of the people and organisations involved in Water Allocation Plan Review Committee as well as DKRI. Drawing on the Collective Impact methodology (see [Attachment 1: Partnership methodology](#)), the group established a shared vision/agenda, strategy, 'what success looks like', a campaign plan and each organisation and person made commitments as to how they would contribute (mutually reinforcing activities). We established the brand 'Talking Water – Kwatye Angkeme'.

A key in this approach is that the project doesn't 'belong to any one of the partners' – rather everyone 'owns it'. DKRI and the Facilitator acted as the 'backbone organisation'.

A list of the Collective Workgroup can be found in Attachment 2: Members of the Collective that drove the Campaign.



Image 1: The Talking Water Collective.

<sup>1</sup> <https://haveyoursay.nt.gov.au/directionspaper>, accessed 13/12/21

<sup>2</sup> John Huigen, Chair (independent); Martin Campbell (CLC); Greg Owens (NT Farmers); Cr Eli Melki (Alice Springs Town Council); Barb Shaw (AAPA), Rod Cramer (independent), Robyn Grey-Gardner (independent), Jimmy Cocking (ALEC), Adam Davis (Power and Water)

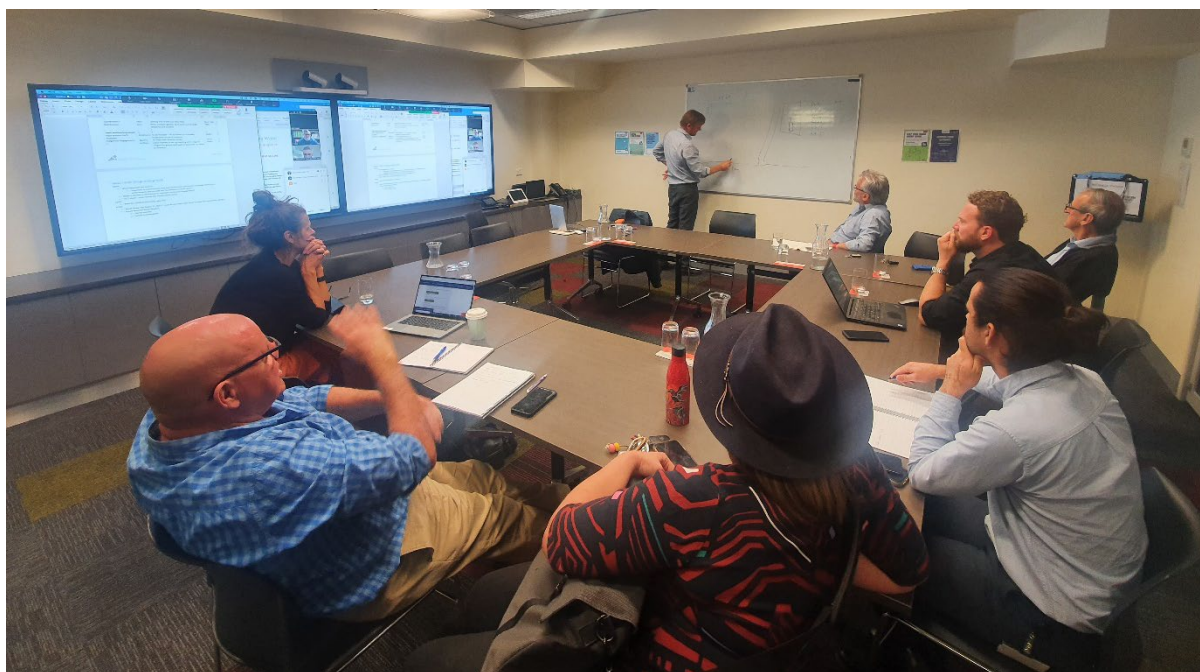
## Strategy

The workgroup established a way of looking at the issue and took a longer-term view beyond just the short engagement campaign and Consultation.

## Givens

We established a set of 'givens':

- Alice Springs Water Control District only (not outside of the District; a separate process is happening for remote communities)
- This is a start, not the end. The aim is to establish foundations for on-going work
- Limited by time and budget, so only can do what is reasonable (and how much is done depends on the commitments of various organisations or people)
- Legislation and governments will change so need long-term view and on-going connections to provide advice, input and on-going momentum
  - Presently, the Alice Springs Water Advisory Committee (ASWAC) stops and starts depending on what phase of Water Advisory Plan development/review; an ongoing monitory role is needed



*Image 2: An initial planning meeting with the Talking Water Collective.*

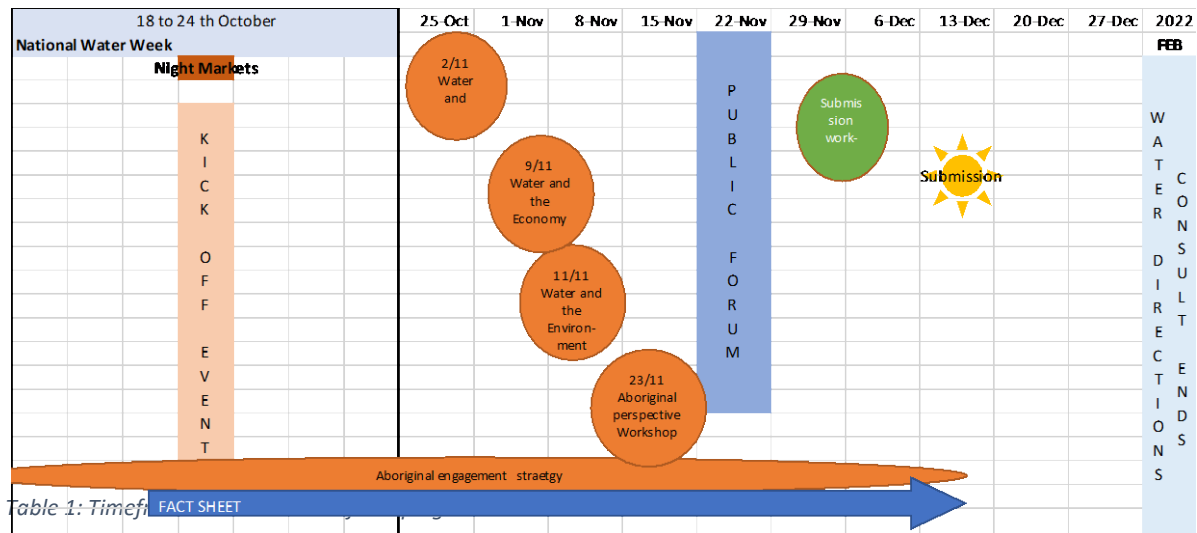


Our WHERE: by the end of this project (Dec 2021)	Our WHERE in 3 years
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A 'community submission' to the Water Directions Consultation (that will hopefully improve NTG's water governance, etc)</li> <li>2. On-going core group of engaged people representative of various sections of the community as a standing working group on water working on areas of agreed interest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ And from whom the Minister could seek EOIs for the ASWAC</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Foundations for ongoing water stewardship within the community <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Build <b>numbers</b> and diversity of people engaged in Alice Springs' water issues.</li> <li>b. Increase <b>awareness, understanding &amp; engagement</b> with water issues, its management etc</li> <li>c. Beginnings of a shared 'water story' for the town</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An effective Water Strategy for Alice Springs Water District [informed by 10 Directions consultation]</li> <li>2. There is some ongoing collective water 'governance' of the shared work together <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Government, community, including Aboriginal interests and perspectives</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. The Alice Springs community is engaged with water issues and water stewardship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Are aware, knowledgeable, understand the issues, play their role, joint/collaborative</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

## HOW

It was agreed that a shared foundation of THE FACTS was essential to provide the agreed-to foundations for a kick-off public activating event; and four inputs into a wider public forum were planned to provide data, perspectives and people for a Community Forum to enable the drafting of a community submission by mid-December.

National Water Week was 18-25 October. Our kick-off event and supporting media strategy worked to maximise the value of this is an important yearly event.



## Whole systems framing

The various stakeholders, perspectives, relationships, expectations and legislation are all part of the 'system' that influences how water is considered, valued and managed.

Our Collective's agreed intention was to build shared stewardship of water resources so aimed to engage the whole system, and for each part of the system to understand more fully and consider the perspectives, values and constraints of other parts of the system.

The design of the community engagement sessions was geared towards building this.

The engagements also needed to provide the foundations and inputs into a main Forum and provide data that could be harvested to provide input into the Community Submission.

It was agreed to seek input from four perspectives being:

1. Water and People
2. Water and Environment
3. Water and Economy
4. Aboriginal Perspectives on Water

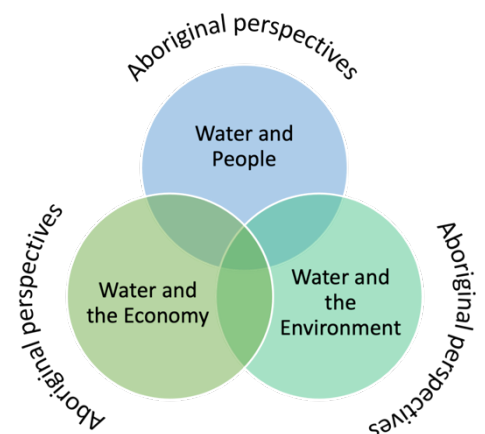


Figure 1: Whole systems framing

Four 'input workshops' were offered, and then a final community Forum, which took information and perspectives gathered from the input workshops and built upon them.

The rest of this submission outlines the findings from the various engagements and provides a summary.

## The Community Submission – a word of caution

The following insights and perspectives are gathered from the people that engaged with the process.

Apart from the 'kick-off event', which was public and in amongst a public crowd, the rest of the events were attended by people who intentionally chose to be involved, so they were people interested in water and committed enough to devote time and energy to the issue. The results outlined, then, are not fully representative of the 'average community member', but of people already interested in the issue.

And, of course, the events, while quite well-attended, were only a small fraction of the entire community's population.

So, some caution in interpreting the results needs to be taken.

Another caution and disclaimer is that what is presented does not necessarily reflect the view of every single person who engaged with the process.

# The FACT SHEET

## Introduction

The development of the FACT SHEET was a critical first step on the Collective's journey to create an agreed factual and interpretive foundation to the campaign.

The brief was quite constrained because it needed to capture the essential facts in a way that could be easily conveyed, wouldn't confuse people, and provide the foundations for deeper exploration and consideration of the issues and the motivation to do something – it needed to be a call to action. Calls to action included seeking further information, coming to Talking Water events and heading straight to the Have Your Say website, to read the Ten Directions paper and participate in the online survey.

This proved (as expected) to be quite a challenge because:

1. There was no existing foundation document or facts
2. We needed to keep things simple, but things are not simple, they can be quite complicated – for example, to explain where water comes from, how it is held in aquifers, whether or not those aquifers are recharged and how they are recharged, becomes complicated very quickly. Striking a balance of being simple but not simplistic, is not easy.
3. We needed to be accurate and 'punchy' to encourage response to calls to action. Too much detail and nuance quickly erode punchiness. A good example is providing a punchy but accurate answer to the provocative question: 'How long will our water last?'. That depends... It's not that we actually 'run out of water', it's just that it will become (using present technologies) uneconomical to extract at our present bore fields, but the time they will last depends on whether replenishment increases, or the population changes, or... So, the answer needs some nuance, but still needs to retain the key, motivating message.

**At present rates, our town water supply will be uneconomical by early/mid-2200s. But climate change and a rise in population means this could happen much sooner.**

The process of negotiating the FACT SHEET was an important exercise in the Collective learning to work together for a common purpose and provided an excellent foundation for every community discussion that was held and for every media engagement.



## THE FACTS

We use more than **twice as much water** as the Australian average!

Our drinking water comes from underground sources = we are **mining our water**.

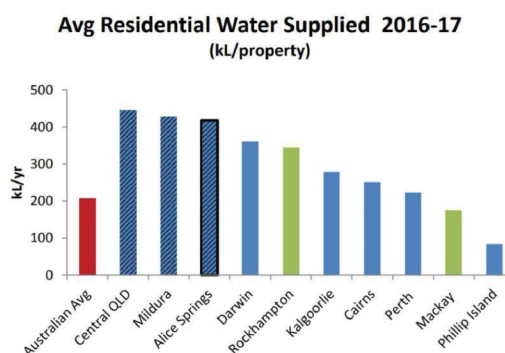
At present rates, **our town water supply will be uneconomical by early/mid-2200s. But climate change and a rise in population means this could happen much sooner.**

We are **exhausting water resources that have existed for hundreds of thousands of years.**

**Water matters** to you, your family, our future.

We **can't afford to squander** our water future.

**We can all be part of a safer water future!**



Source: Living Water Smart in Alice

Image 3: An excerpt from the FACT SHEET, developed by the Collective, to provide an agreed foundation to discussions.

# Community Engagement Events

## Kick-off Event: The Night Market

### Introduction

The Night Market Kick-off event was very successful – the campaign ‘went to the people’, rather than expecting people to choose to come to an event. The aim was to kick-off the campaign, generate some invitees for the subsequent workshops and raise awareness about the issue. The event was held during National Water Week.

Each of the project partners participated, setting up a stall, and together we created a ‘zone’, where people came in and engaged with a range of booths, people and opportunities to Have Their Say.

- There were demonstrations (e.g. of how water is ‘held’ underground in the porous rock)
- Merchandise to give away and engage with people around – including mangoes brought all the way down from Darwin by Project Partners NT Farmers; and water-saving devices from Power & Water Corporation.
- A survey was used as (primarily) a conversation starter/engagement tool as well as a way of collecting people’s contact details
- Distribution and explanation of THE FACTS brochure
- People were encouraged to Have Their Say on their Priorities, at the Big Board.

### Findings

#### General observations

- A good number of people expressed that they didn’t really think much about water, where it came from...
- But once conversations started and people realised that our water isn’t infinite, that it is a limited resource, people usually became quite engaged and began thinking about ways they could make a difference
- *The diversity of people involved in this engagement was very high*



Image 4: Kick-off Event | A demonstration of how water is retained by porous rock underground by John Gaynor, DEPWS.

## Survey

- Around 56 people answered the survey (see [Attachment 3: Night Market Survey](#))

Question	Total
<b>Do you know where our drinking water comes from?</b>	<b>56</b>
No idea	4
Some idea	22
Yes, absolutely	30
<b>How much do you know about local Aboriginal perspectives on water?</b>	<b>56</b>
Pretty well nothing	22
A bit	29
I know quite a lot	5
<b>How scarce or plentiful do you think our water is?</b>	<b>57</b>
It's definitely limited, and I am concerned	43
It's limited, but there's no real concern	12
We have plenty to last for ages	2
<b>How often do you think about water</b>	<b>20</b>
Never give it any thought	0
Sometimes	20

The survey data shows that nearly everyone who did the survey had some or a good idea of where our drinking water comes from, which is somewhat at odds to the general comments we received.

- People generally had little or no idea of Aboriginal perspectives on water.
- There was some awareness that our water is finite.

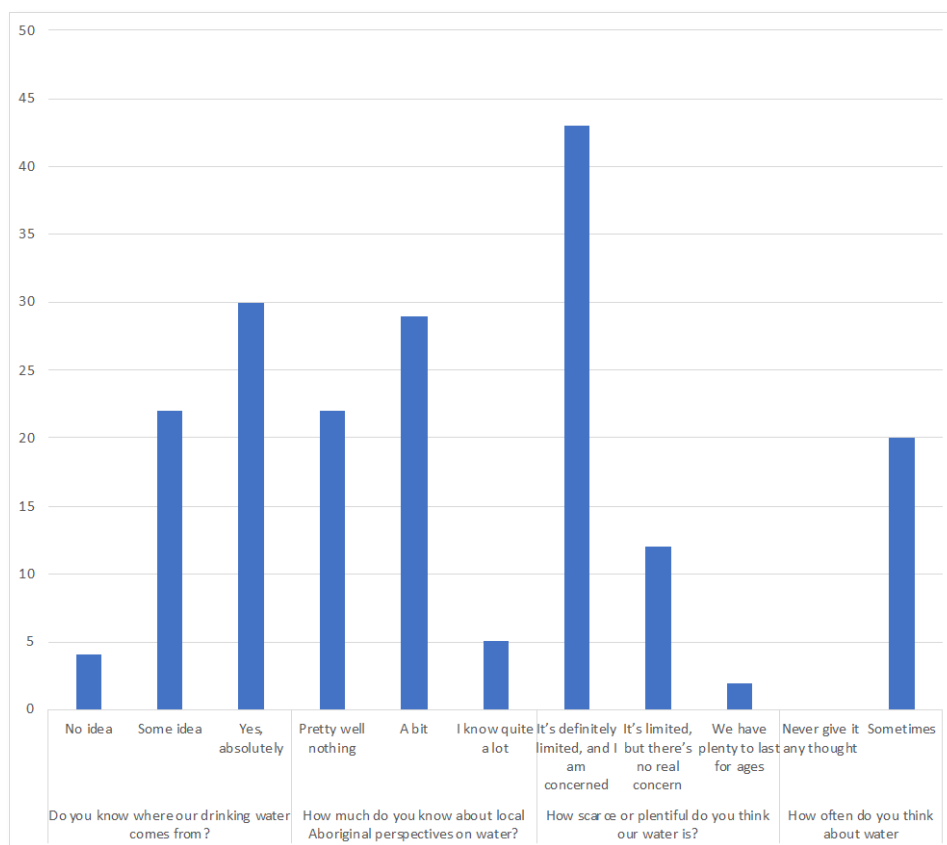


Table 2: Kick-off Event | Water survey results.

## The Big Board

The Big Board used the same survey prioritisation headings as in the Directions Paper [Have Your Say Survey](#) asking people to give their top three priorities – Red = 1<sup>st</sup> priority, Blue = 2<sup>nd</sup> priority and Yellow = 3<sup>rd</sup> priority.

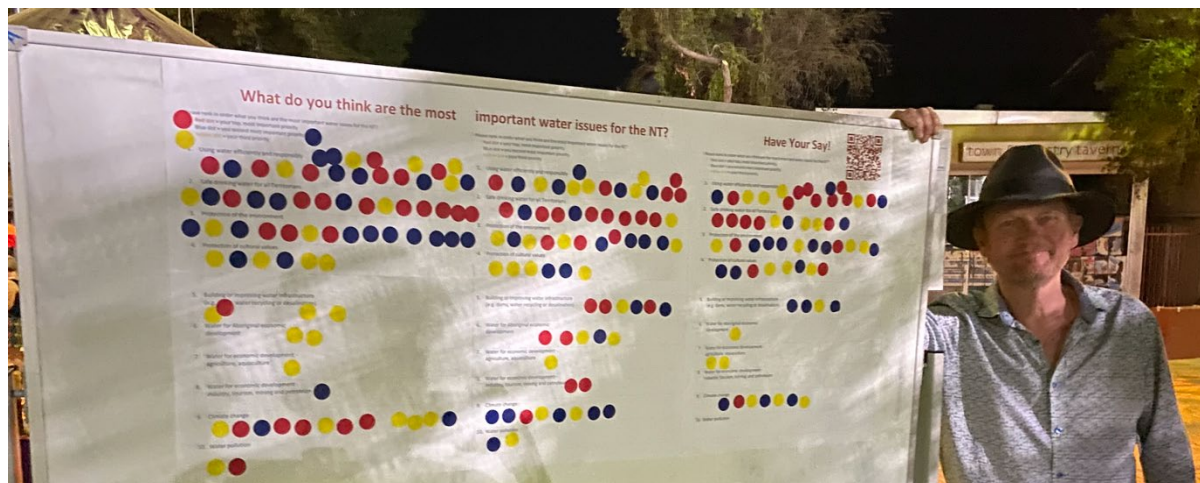


Image 5: Kick-off Event | The Big Board & John Huigen, Project Facilitator

Summary table of people's *Have Your Say* prioritisations:

		Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
1.	Using water efficiently and responsibly	21	15	14
2.	Safe drinking water for all Territorians	22	8	6
3.	Protection of the environment	8	20	10
4.	Protection of cultural values	2	7	11
5.	Building or improving water infrastructure (e.g. dams, water recycling or desalination)	5	5	5
6.	Water for Aboriginal economic development	2	1	5
7.	Water for economic development - agriculture, aquaculture	0	0	4
8.	Water for economic development - industry, tourism, mining and petroleum	2	1	
9.	Climate change	7	10	10
10.	Water pollution	1	1	2

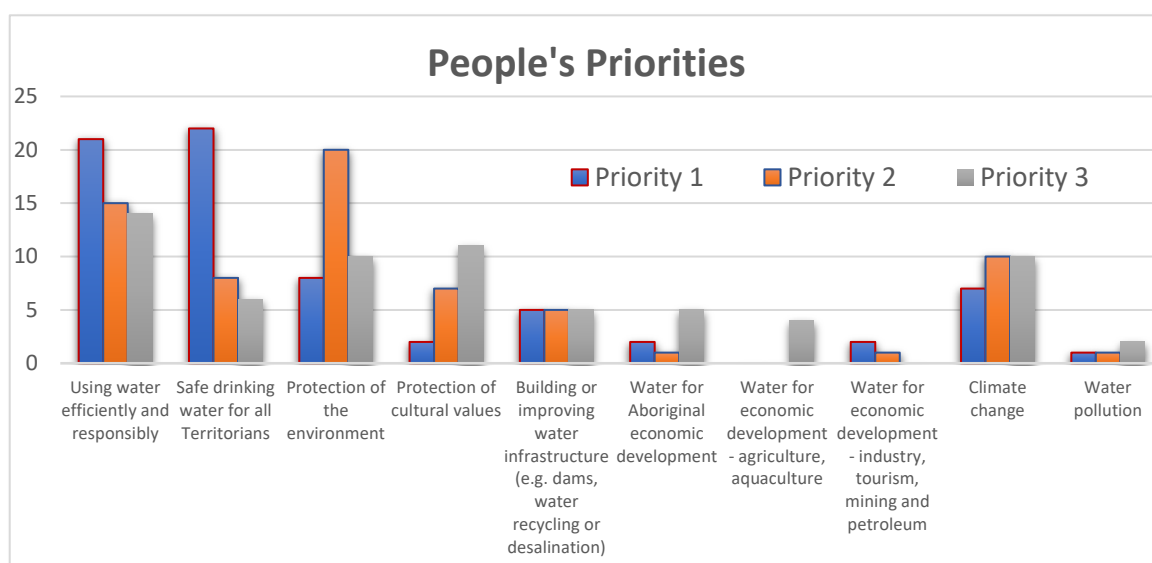


Table 3: Kick-off Event | People's priorities.

To more easily visualise and understand the ‘collective prioritisation’ a score of 3 is given to Priority 1, 2 to Priority 2 and 1 to Priority 3 resulting in this clear picture of the priorities:

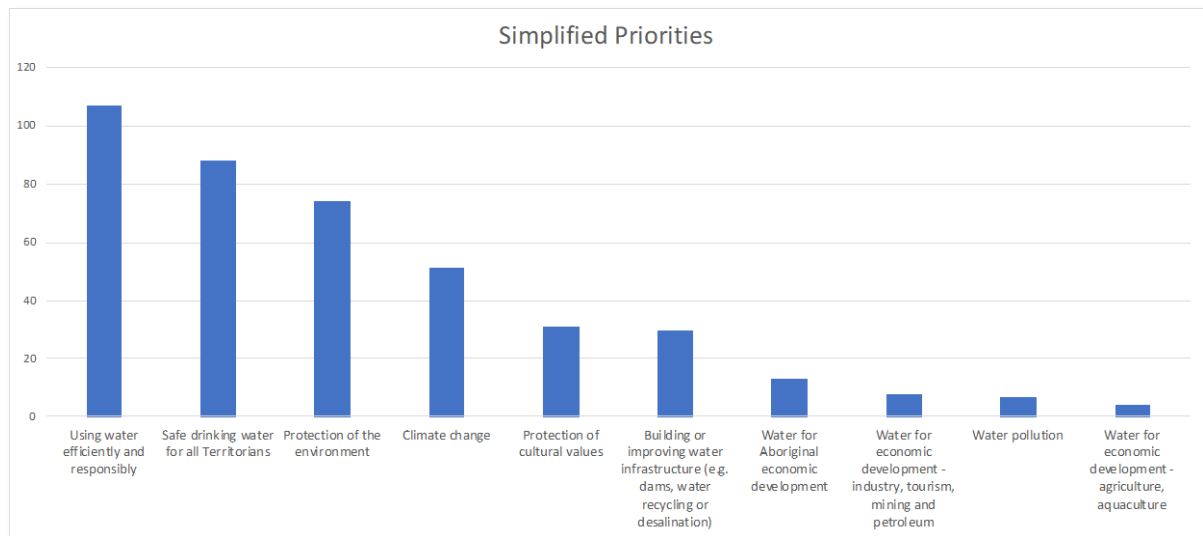


Table 4: Kick-off Event | Simplified priorities.

The order of priorities is therefore:

1. Using water efficiently and responsibly
2. Safe drinking water for all Territorians
3. Protection of the environment
4. Climate Change

Some further points on the Big Board

- The precedence effect was clearly obvious on the night. Oftentimes people read the first few and locked in their priorities – only a few read the whole board, so care needs to be taken in taking too much from the above
- Nevertheless, it was clear from the conversations that people were very strong on water efficiency, safe drinking water and environment
- Very little interest in economic use of water
- Many comments were made about how the ten areas overlapped and/or weren't very clear
- People's interpretation of the ten areas was quite different
- This was an excellent community engagement/conversation starter method



# Water and People Workshop

## Introduction

The Water and People Workshop was held on the front lawns of the Civic Centre, co-hosted by the Alice Springs Town Council. As an input session, its aim was to draw in new people, generate some information and begin to build a wider coalition of people interested in and committed to doing something about water. The aim was to explore water issues through the 'people' lens.

Its focus was on:

- Deepening people's understanding of water issues and the 10Directions consultation
- Gaining an understanding on what values drive people's decision-making and prioritisation
- Seeing how that affects how people prioritise 'facts' and how they would prioritise what others really need to know (so this could feed into the community forum)
- Explore how people might individually respond to the challenge of water

## Findings

Two groups came up with two lists about what a person new to water (=newbie) really needs to know:

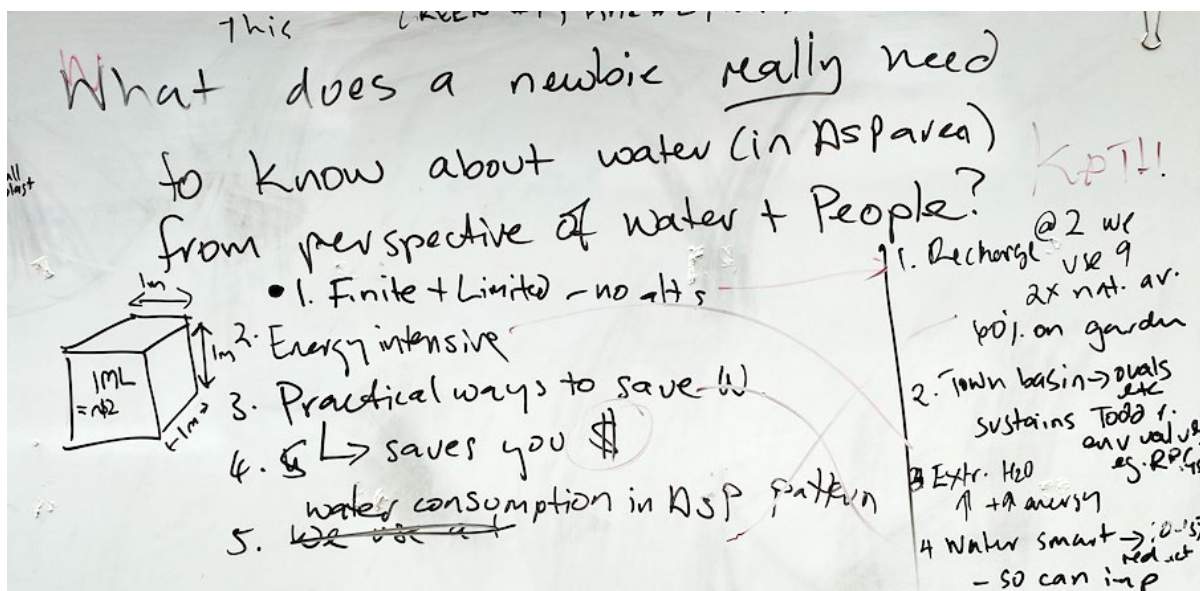


Image 6: Water and People | An excerpt from the whiteboard.

And an exploration of values and priorities generated the following, with Green being #1 Priority, Pink #2 and White #3:

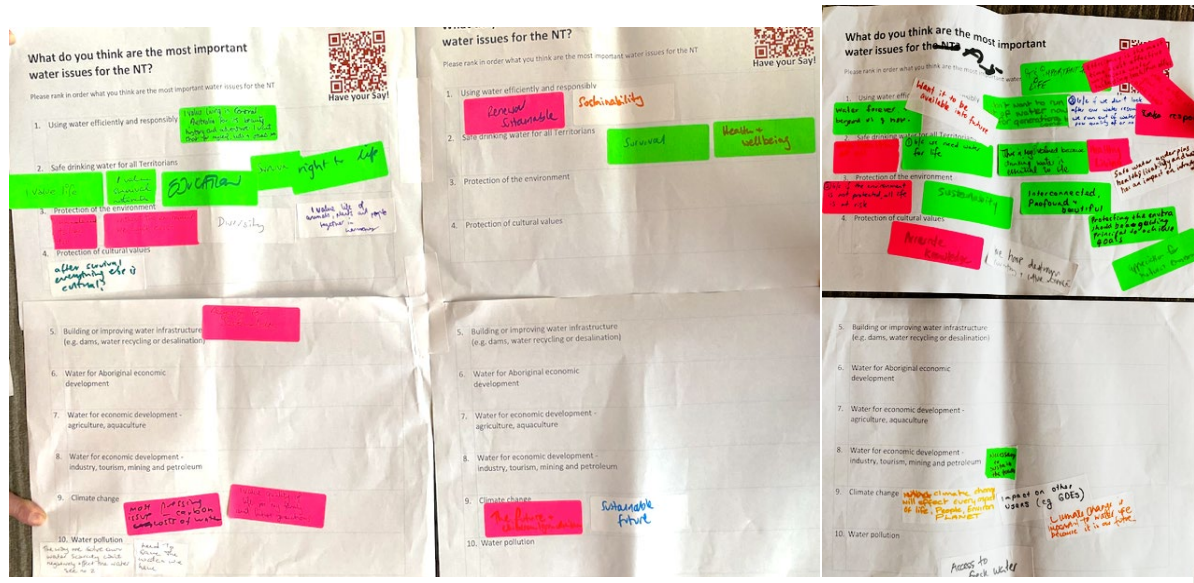


Image 7: Water and People | Participant priorities on water use.

	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
1 Using water efficiently and responsibly	4	4	3
2 Safe drinking water for all Territorians	9	2	1
3 Protection of the environment	2	3	2
4 Protection of cultural values	2	1	2
5 Building or improving water infrastructure (e.g. dams, water recycling or desalination)	0	1	0
6 Water for Aboriginal economic development	0	0	0
7 Water for economic development - agriculture, aquaculture	0	0	0
8 Water for economic development - industry, tourism, mining and petroleum	1	0	0
9 Climate change	0	3	4
10 Water pollution	0	0	3

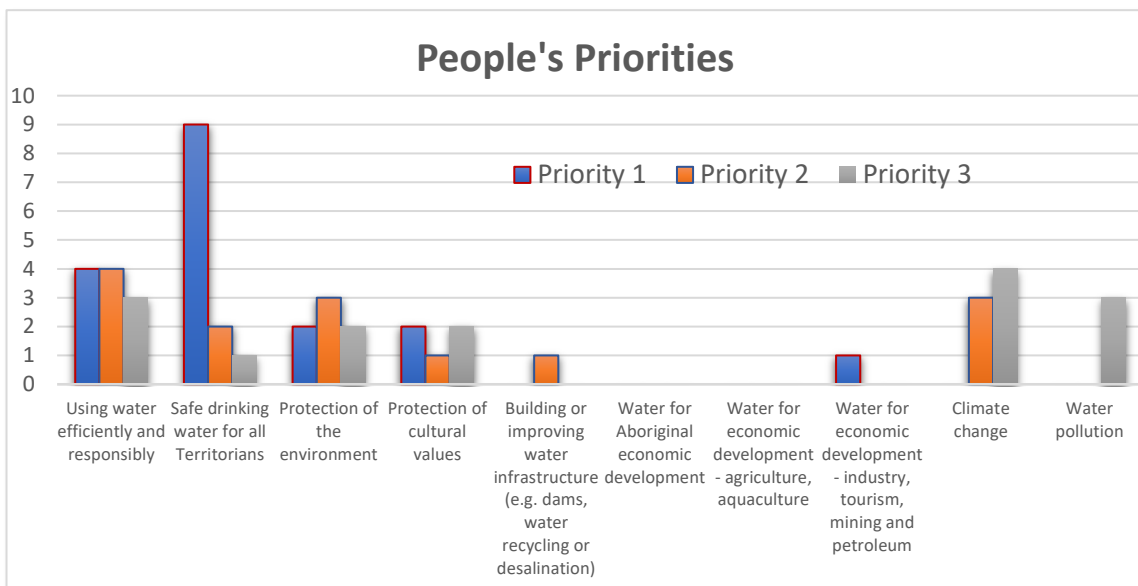
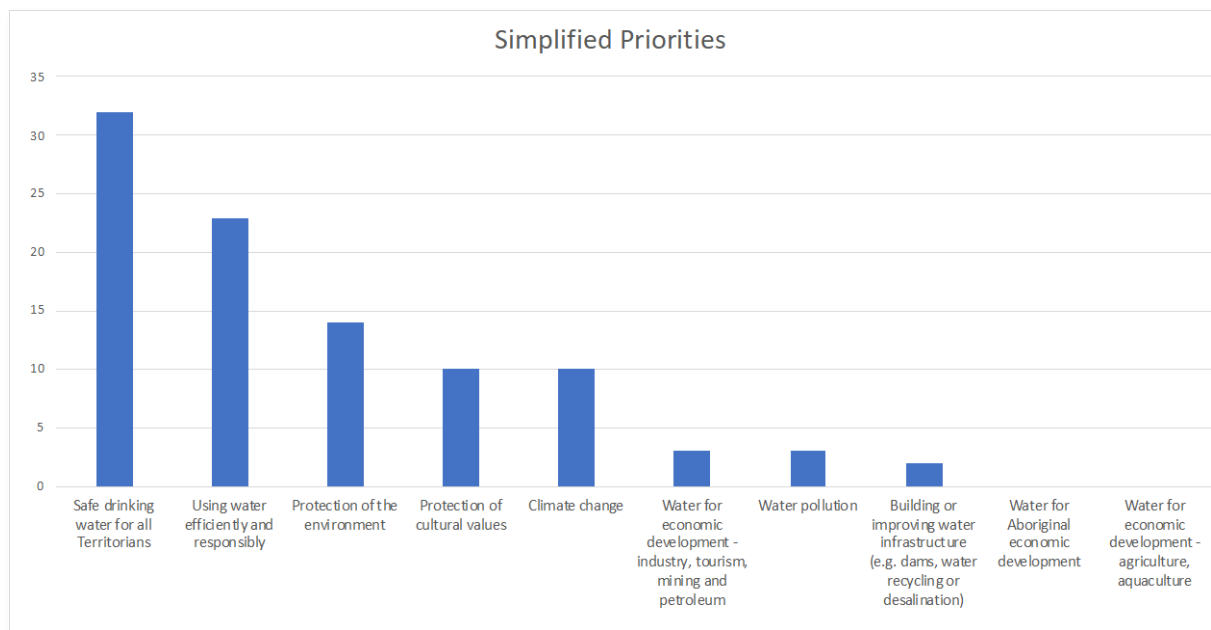


Table 5: Water and People | People's priorities.

To more easily visualise and understand the ‘collective prioritisation’ a score of 3 is given to Priority 1, 2 to Priority 2 and 1 to Priority 3 resulting in this clear picture of the priorities:



#### Values and priorities

1. Safe drinking water was the #1 Priority – with values around survival (very strongly represented), right to life, and health and wellbeing, being the drivers of this prioritisation
2. Using water efficiently and responsibly was the #2 Priority – with values around thinking about the future (what is left behind for future generations) being consistent and almost universal driving values for this prioritisation. Some comments around efficiency/water saving being the most effective way to ensure longevity.
3. Protecting the Environment was the #3 Priority – driven by values recognising interconnectedness of environment and sustainability, and inherent value of the environment and our need to protect and enjoy it.
4. Climate change and Protection of cultural values were equal #4 priorities – driven by valuing the future (climate change affects) and that culture and cultural knowledge having value and insights into living more sustainably.

The workshop was split into two groups who, after deeper discussion generated their own ‘top three priorities’ being:

Group 1	Group 2
Safe Drinking Water	Using water efficiently
Environmental protection	Safe Drinking Water
Using water efficiently	Environmental protection

#### A point to highlight – water stewardship

A key theme coming out of this workshop was that everyone needed to take responsibility to reduce their water usage, and to make sure that water is used most productively.

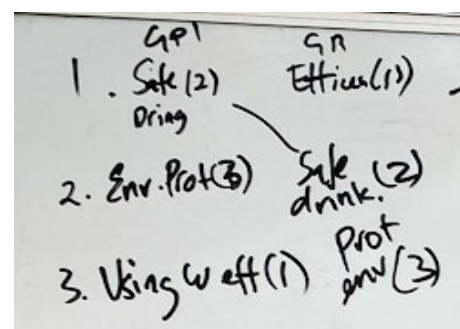


Image 8: Water and People | Group priorities.

The final exercise of the evening was the personal challenge: What are you going to do differently, and who are you going to tell? Almost overwhelmingly, the responses were around practical measures to reduce water consumption – checking reticulation for leaks, having shorter showers, etc.



Image 9: Water and People | L-R: Nathan Blight (ASTC Environment Officer), Jeanette Elliot (DKA Corporate Services Manager), Tracy Jones (DKA Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Officer), and John Huigen (Project Facilitator).

# Water and Economy Workshop

## Introduction

DKRI co-hosted the event, which was held at the Northern Territory Chamber of Commerce Alice Springs Business Hub. All the local Chamber of Commerce members were invited to the event. The aim was to explore water issues through the 'economy' lens.

The structure of the late afternoon workshop was an initial presentation of THE FACTS, a panel discussion on water and the economy, some work at tables and a final plenary.



Image 10: Water and Economy | DKA/DKRI Communications Officer Tracy Jones outlines THE FACTS.

## Findings

### Panel discussion

The panel consisted of three presenters, arranged by DKRI:

1. Prof Rolf Gerritsen on the economics of water, principally covering how price signalling can dampen demand (at this stage, water is charged at a flat rate across the Territory). Other jurisdictions ramp up charge-per-unit after an average consumption, or similar, to create incentives for people to moderate their usage.
2. Jim Gibbons from Power and Water Corporation on the costs of water extraction, including how the energy and other costs (e.g., additional bores) of pumping water out of the steadily depleting Roe Creek Bore fields will increase over time.
3. Shaun O'Connor, the manager of the Date Farm Cooperative, who described their not-for-profit business model, reflecting on how they have minimised costs and environmental impacts through use of (NTG-subsidised) installation of solar energy, and how they will need to continually invest to minimise water usage in a very water-intensive industry.

The subsequent Q&A highlighted the interplay between commercial profitability and water consumption utilising a non-fully replenishing water resource.

Another point of discussion was the present non-payment of water outside of Power and Water supplied water supply, and the National Water Initiative which seeks to place a price on water to ensure the greatest value return of water usage is achieved.

### Table discussions

Three tables discussed three different questions for 20 minutes, then the groups rotated and spent time considering the previous group's work and answers, adding to or more deeply exploring issues as they saw fit.

**Table 1: What does the average person need to know?**

People engaging with THE FACTs and their implications through the lens of water and the economy:

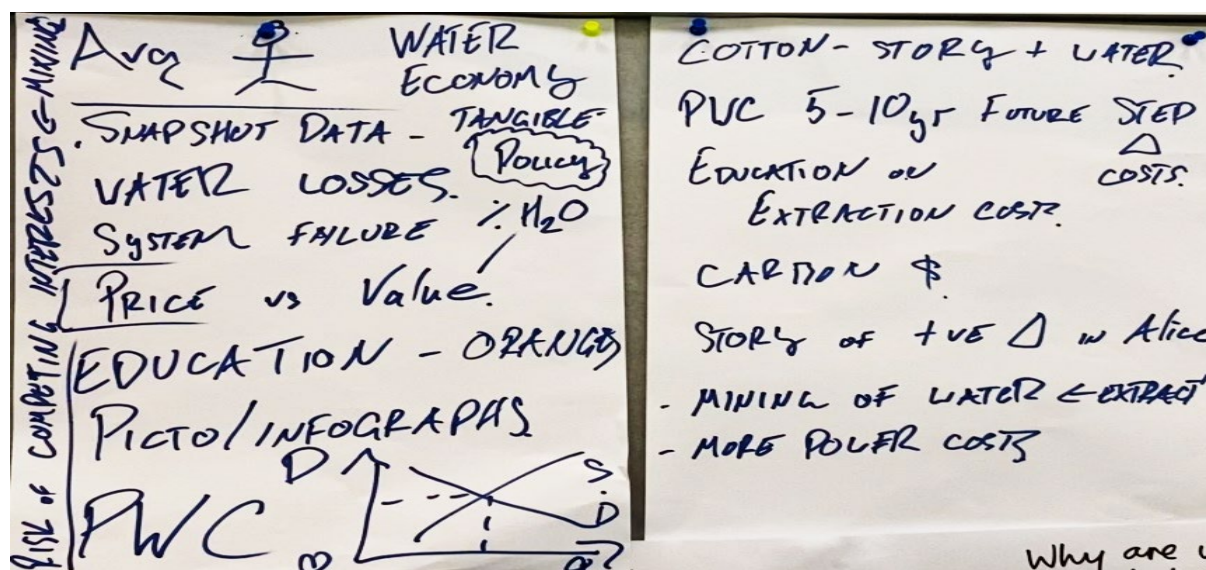


Image 11: Water and Economy | Participant insights.

This work was presented to the wider group:

**What does the average person need to know? Key facts**

- Water impacts health outcomes
- Without water, there is NO economy or Alice Springs
- Pricing is a means to affect demand
- People have different values around water
- The cost isn't just about money – there are other costs
- The more we use the more expensive it will become to extract water AND ultimately there will be a big cost to relocate the bore fields to establish another water supply
- There needs to be economic incentives to decrease water use.



Image 12: Water and Economy | The 'what people need to know' Table hard at work, facilitated by DKA Board Director Gary Powell.

**Table 2: How can we get the most PRODUCTIVE use of water?**

People developed a list of ideas as to how to get most productive use of water (i.e., least amount of water for greatest value) and then prioritised the list.

The Priorities were:

1. Some form of pricing to hold down demand, while ensuring poor people are not disadvantaged
2. An assemblage of ideas for encouraging people to reduce demand (e.g., Water Smart Melbourne Experience)
3. New ways of (efficient) water use for substantial economic value need to be innovated

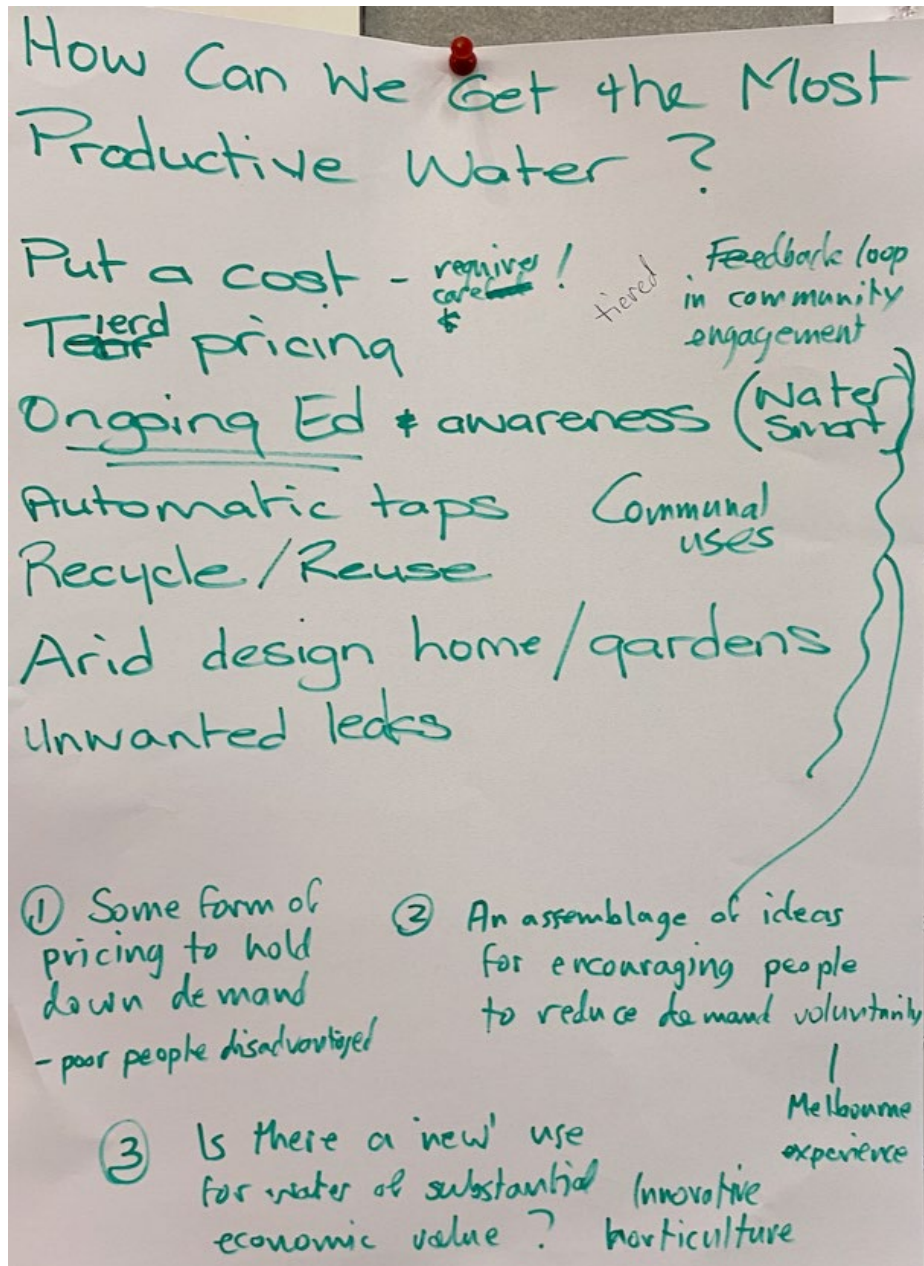


Image 13: Water and Economy | How can we get the most productive use of water?

### Table 3: How can we get the best decisions about balancing the economic and other values of water?

People developed a list of principles as to how to get the best balance between the economic and other needs for water use, including talking about the tipping point of when economic needs get overridden by environmental, human or cultural needs.

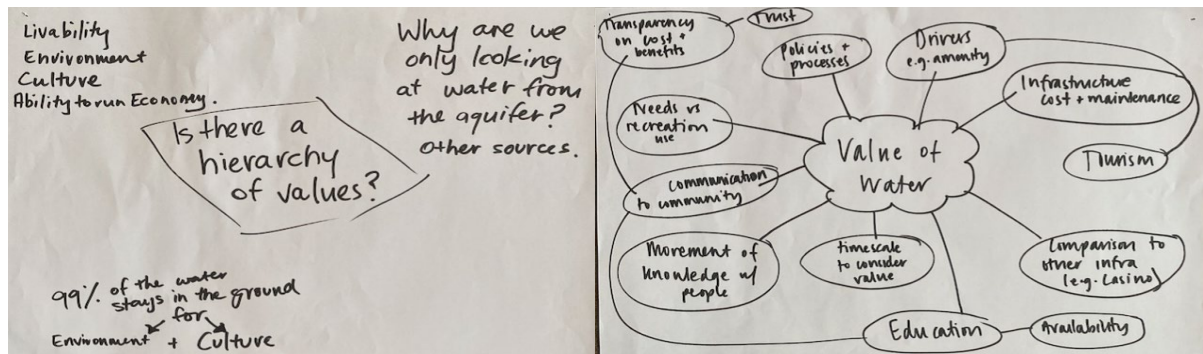


Image 14: Water and Economy | Participant insight into economic versus environmental, human or cultural needs.

- Have clear hierarchy of values
  - Liveability
  - Environment
  - Culture
  - Economy
- Recognise value of water is across the dollar economy and the wider social, lifestyle and community economy (education needed on this wider view)
- Clear policies and processes, (water governance) transparency on cost/benefit is essential to build the essential trust



# Water and Environment Workshop

## Introduction

The Arid Lands Environment Centre co-hosted this workshop at the East Side Community Garden. The aim was to explore water issues through the environment lens.

The structure of the late afternoon workshop was an initial introduction and consideration of THE FACTS, then a panel discussion, and then some exploration at tables of some key questions.

## The Panel

The panellists were arranged by ALEC and were to have a particular focus on GDEs – Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems:

1. Mike Gillam – spoke about his long personal journey aiming to influence governments (of different political persuasions) and the public service on a range of water issues, with little or no success. He outlined examples where engineering considerations could have made a significant difference to environmental outcomes – examples included the drainage and road engineering around the Coolabah Swamp and intentional engineering to manage and achieve the greatest value of localised water run-off.
2. Alex Vaughan, from ALEC, provided perspectives on the environmental risks of overallocation of groundwater on GDEs. Alex gave some orientation to the fauna found underground (stygo fauna) and the impacts of falling groundwater levels on them. He highlighted the importance of proper environmental assessment process, underpinning science and transparent policies and processes in the allocation of water reserves, using the present Western Davenport water allocation as a case-in-point.



*Image 15: Water and Environment | Panel discussion. (L-R) Alex Vaughn (ALEC Policy Officer), Jade Kudrenko (ALEC GM and panel chair), and Mike Gillam (environmental writer).*

## Findings

### Table discussions

After some very welcome pizza, interactive tables saw people actively participate and contribute.

**Table 1: Mapping activities of water dependent locations identified by participants within the Alice Springs town area**



Image 16: Water and Environment | Participants work with the Collective to map water-dependent locations.

An interactive activity aimed to draw out understandings of why these are significant. The discussions clearly demonstrated waterholes and water-dependent places matter to people and identified 14 particular places of importance.

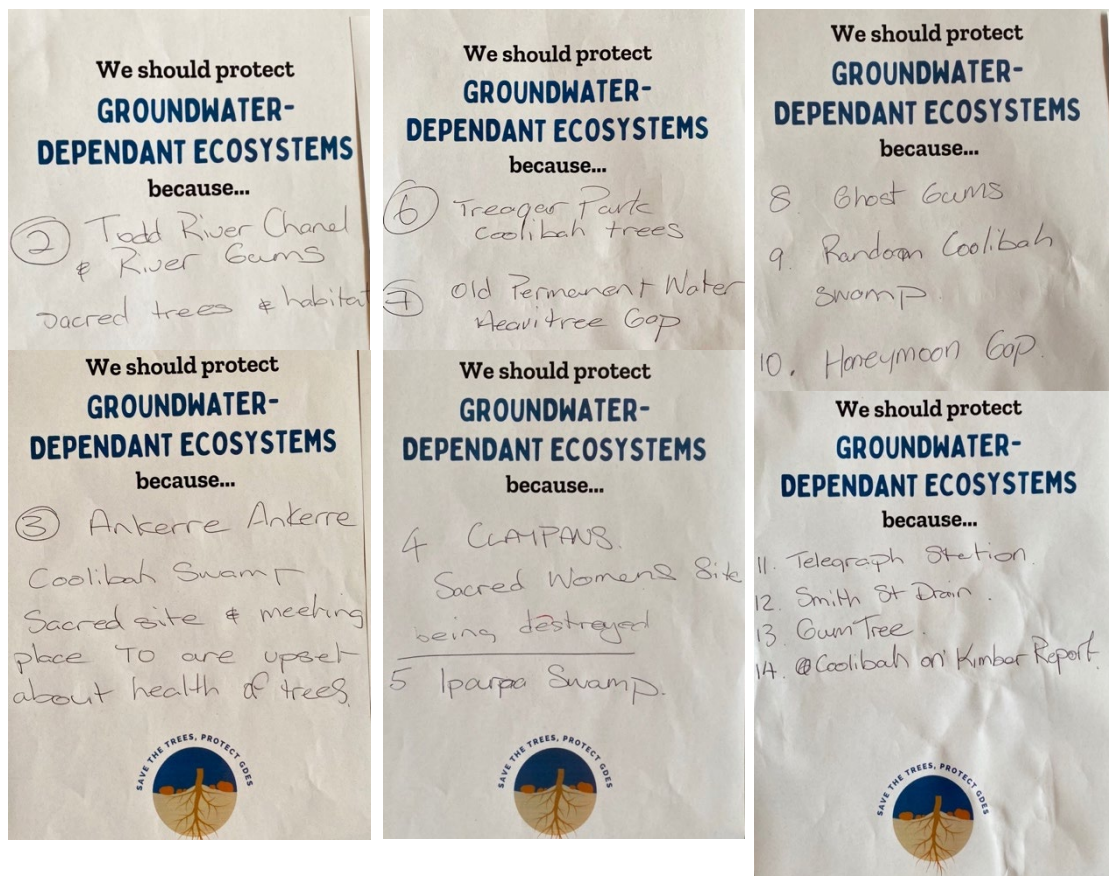


Image 17: Water and Environment | Participants outline their values around GDEs.

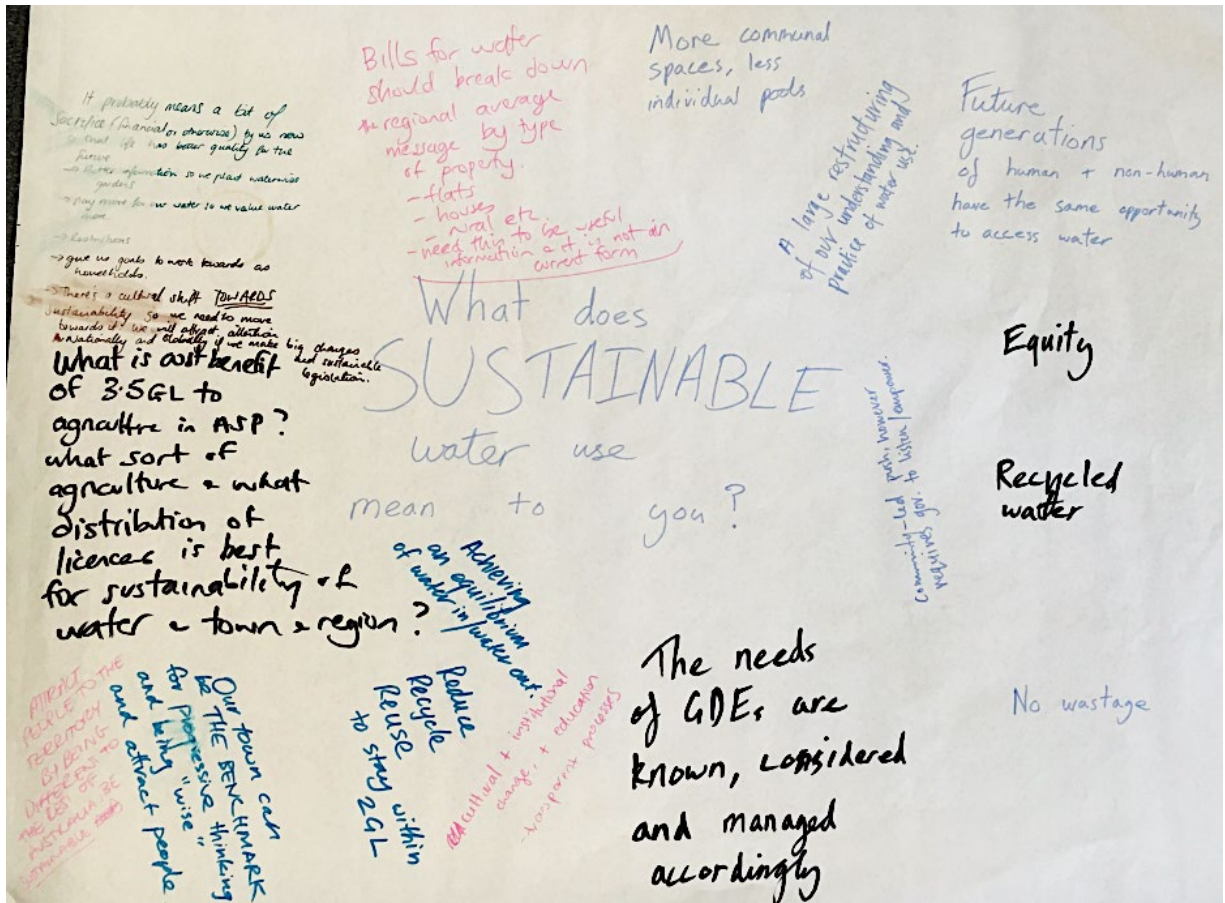


Image 18: Water and Environment | Participant insights on 'What is sustainable water use?'

**Table 2: Mind map: What is 'sustainable water use' and Table 3: Suggestions/ideas for 'sustainable water use' - from big picture to up front and personal**

Key takeaways from this exercise were:

- That the needs of GDEs need to be known, considered, and managed accordingly
- That recycling of water is important
- That a longer-term view is needed – need to think of and plan for future generations
- Need to reduce demand
- Need to set a sustainable water use target. The setting that target to be the equivalent to the 2GL per annum aquifer recharge was one suggestion.

# Water and Aboriginal Perspectives Workshop

## Introduction

Gaining local Aboriginal perspectives and engagement on water was a key strategy of the campaign. A number of local Aboriginal organisations responded to an invitation to meet and to be involved. They agreed to assist in bringing together a good number and diversity of Arrernte people from right across the Alice Springs Water Control District to a workshop. The organisations that assisted in this were:

- Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation – the Prescribed Body Corporate for the Alice Springs Native Title determination
- Ingkerreke Services – an Aboriginal Corporation representing and supporting Aboriginal people on homelands and outstations outside of Alice Springs
- The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority, through Barb Shaw, and
- The Central Land Council

The aim of this workshop was not only to gain Aboriginal perspectives on water and input into the campaign (and this Community Submission) but to begin exploring the value, structure and workings of a potential on-going Aboriginal Water Reference Group for the District. Those discussions went very well but are not reported in this Submission.

The three-hour workshop was held at the Olive Pink Botanical Garden and was well-attended because of the efforts of the above-mentioned organisations that brought the participants together.

The first part of the workshop was orientation to the campaign, THE FACTS about water and the present Northern Territory Government consultation on the proposed Ten Directions to inform the development of the NTG Strategic Water Plan.

The key questions (related to this Submission) that were then explored, through facilitated group discussion, were:

1. Given we will be having a Community Forum in two days that will be looking at priorities around water and the Ten Directions, **what do the people there need to know from your perspective** so that they can do that job well?”, and
2. **What issues need to be considered around water?**



*Image 19: Water and Aboriginal Perspectives | Project Facilitator John Huigen leads the workshop, exploring Aboriginal responses to key questions.*

## Findings

### 1. What do the people there need to know?

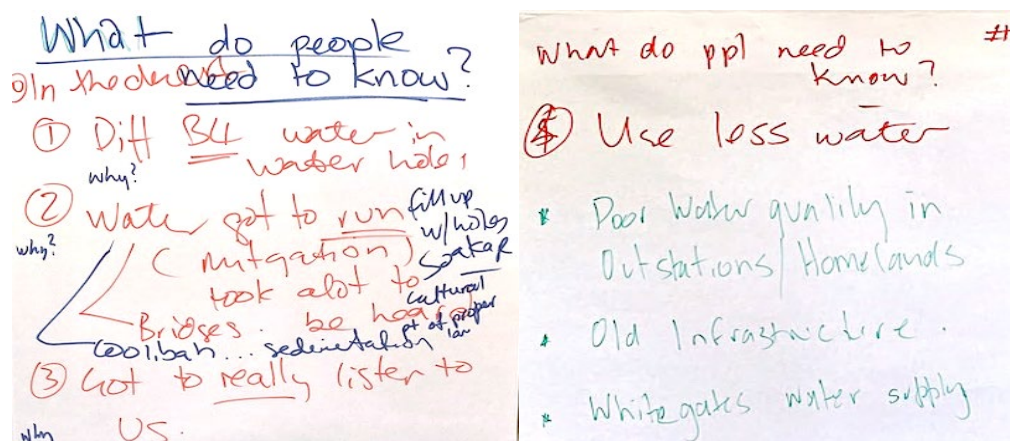


Image 20: Water and Aboriginal Perspectives | Participants highlight information that people need to be aware of.

The following was read out as a report-back at the Community Forum two days later, by an agreed-to nominated Arrernte person:

- We had a workshop on Tuesday that brought Aboriginal people from Alice Springs and from the whole Alice Springs Water Control District together
- Here are the things that we all thought you all need to know when you're thinking about water – it's a report-back on that workshop
  1. We live in the desert, water is scarce. We need to be careful.
  2. Things are a lot different now than before Europeans came here
    - before the waterholes stayed full most of the time, now they are filled up with sand and weeds, or mucked up by cattle
    - those waterholes, and soaks and swamps are part of our culture and really important, used in ceremony and are part of our stories so it really matters to us that they are not good anymore
  3. The water has to run down the creeks and rivers because that is what clears out the waterholes and keeps them filled
    - The Todd River is really different now
    - All the Alice Springs flood mitigation works – all those culverts and things have really changed the way the river works
    - Also buffel and couch [which clog up the flow and waterholes]
    - We had to work really hard to stop the flood mitigation dam idea north of town, which was over a really important sacred site and would have changed the river even more
    - It's not just about the river; there are also other important cultural places that aren't getting looked after properly. The Coolabah Swamp (Undoolya Rd), for example. That is a good example of an important place to us – it is a ceremonial site which is in bad shape.
  4. We (Arrernte) have been here for thousands of years, and we know about water, and we should be really listened to
  5. We know that we all in the town are using more water than we should – it's precious, so we all need to use less water
  6. There are other things too:
    - The water quality at outstations isn't good
    - There's lots of old infrastructure out there that needs fixing
    - And there's even places nearby where some people live, like White Gate, that don't have proper water

## 2. Issues that were identified that need to be considered

The following are a list of issues that were raised during the workshop.

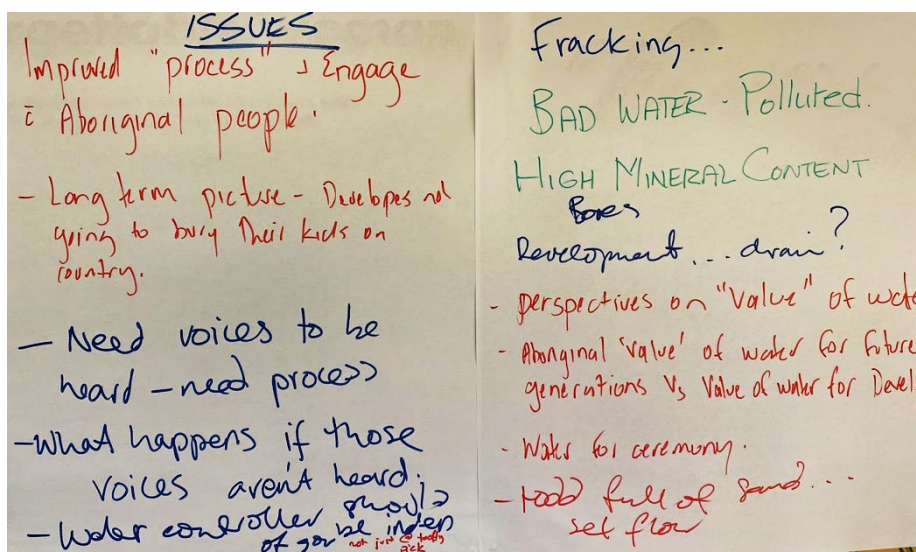


Image 21: Water and Aboriginal Perspectives | Participants identify issues around water.

- Need an ongoing process to engage with Aboriginal people around water issues
- These voices need to be heard and need a process to make sure they are (and when they are not)
- Need to have a longer-term view (developers aren't going to bury their children here)
- The Water Controllers should be independent of the government (not just a public servant)
- Fracking is a worry, danger of polluting the water
- High mineral content of bores on country a problem – bores need fixing
- Worried about how developments (e.g., Davenport) could drain the aquifers and leave nothing behind
- Need to make sure that the Aboriginal 'values' of water for future generations is considered strongly when considering the 'value' out of development
- Water is really important part of ceremony and maintaining culture
- The Todd River is full of sand now – it needs to flow – something needs to be done about that.



Image 22: Water and Aboriginal Perspectives | (L-R) Martin Campbell (Regional Land Management Coordinator, CLC), John Gaynor (Director of Regions, DEPWS), and Mervyn Rubuntja (Arrernte Artist) discussing culturally significant waterholes around Alice Springs.

# Community Forum

## Introduction

The Community Forum was the final public event of the campaign and process, held at the Andy McNeill Room at the Alice Springs Town Council. It was designed to bring in the outcomes and thinking of the previous input sessions and perspectives and build on these, providing specific commentary and community feedback and input into the Directions Paper.

<b>Community Forum Agenda</b>
Introduction – past, present and future, background, framing
Introduction by His Worship Matt Patterson, Alice Springs Town Council Mayor
Report back of Aboriginal perspectives workshop by Graeme Smith, on behalf of the workshop participants
Poster session
Recap and quick walk through of every exhibit
Summary of NT Strategic Water Plan development process and the 10 Directions Paper
Table work: Top 4/5 Directions as prioritised through previous workshops were explored in depth
Plenary <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Report backs</li><li>▪ 'Fun fact prizes', door prize</li></ul>
Close - call to action (personal submission, personal action plan, reduce!)



Image 23: Community Water Forum | Mayor Matt Patterson opening the Community Forum.

## Posters

The poster session had a range of exhibits and interactive areas, crewed by volunteers that enabled people to gather information, interact, ask questions. Many of these posters related to output and outcomes of previous workshops.

- Photos of places in and around Alice Springs, contrasted over time. Some of the 'before' photos were taken just after European settlement of the region, contrasted with photos of exactly the same place, but after many years of settlement
- Key important sites from an Aboriginal perspective
- The FACTS – what people need to know from a 'water and people' perspective
- The FACTS – what people need to know from a 'water

### Dependent Ecosystem focus

- How do you measure up? + Water rules
- How to simply save water through changing your aerator – demo and giveaway
- Alice Springs Water Control District - map and water allocation plan
- Infrared map showing where water is held throughout the District
- NT Strategic Water Plan - the Ten Directions

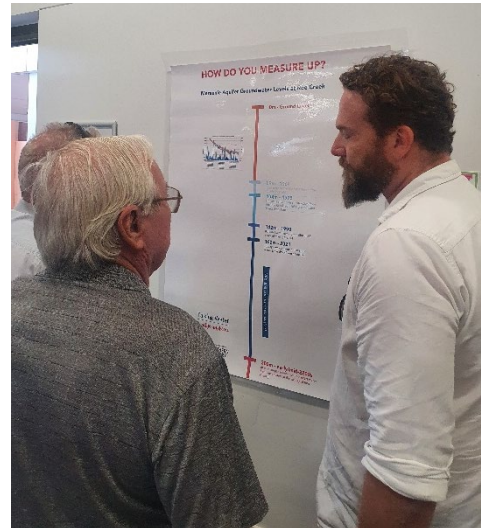


Image 24: Community Water Forum | Jimmy Cocking shares information about the town's depleting water resources with the crowd.



Image 25: Community Water Forum | Amy Dysart (Executive Director, Water Resources Division, DEPWS) outlining the present consultation process to develop the NT Strategic Water Plan.



Image 26: Community Water Forum | People exploring the cultural values of various waterholes and significant sites that are water-dependent with Graeme Smith (CEO, Lhere Artepe).





Image 27: Community Water Forum | Changes over time to Heavitree Gap. [Credit: House Elf Adventures, Facebook]



Image 28: Community Water Forum | Cail Rayment (Remote Water Demand Coordinator, PWC) educates the crowd about simple ways to save water, including demonstrating how to fit an aerator and handing out free devices.

## Findings – through facilitated table discussions

The previous workshops and engagements had discovered that six of the Ten Directions were the priorities. Five tables were offered representing these priorities. Participants self-selected their first priority, joining the corresponding table, to contribute through a facilitated discussion that took people through a learning and exploration journey, and to generate ideas, improvements, suggestions around that Direction. After 30 minutes, people changed tables to their second priority, reviewing the previous group's thinking and adding/contributing to the final 'table outcomes'.

The tables became quite lively and the outputs of the tables varied, as can be seen in the summaries below.

### Table 1: Water governance is contemporary and coordinated

#### Major issues in this Direction that need addressing

- Water is at the centre of community wellbeing and economic activity and should be connected to government's planning
- Decisions on water should involve community and cultural impact analysis, not just environmental impact and economic analyses
- Transparency and trustworthiness are fundamental to effective governance, but presently are inadequate
- Regulatory responsibility should be separated from decision-making
- The principle of subsidiarity – that is, issues should be dealt with at the most immediate level that is consistent with their resolution – should lead to greater community involvement
- Required:
  - Processes that are as transparent as drinking water
- What's working:
  - At least government has committed to listening to community through this current process

**Table 2: Drinking water is safe**

What's going well:

- Town water supply is good
- Lots of mechanisms and processes in place
- Continuous improvement
- Strategic Directions Paper and forums

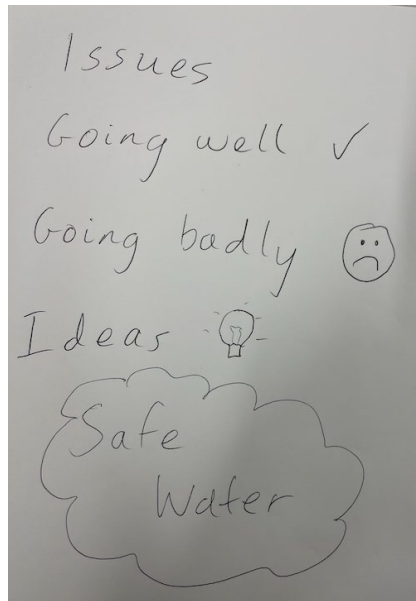


Image 30: Community Water Forum | Table 2, brainstorming ideas.

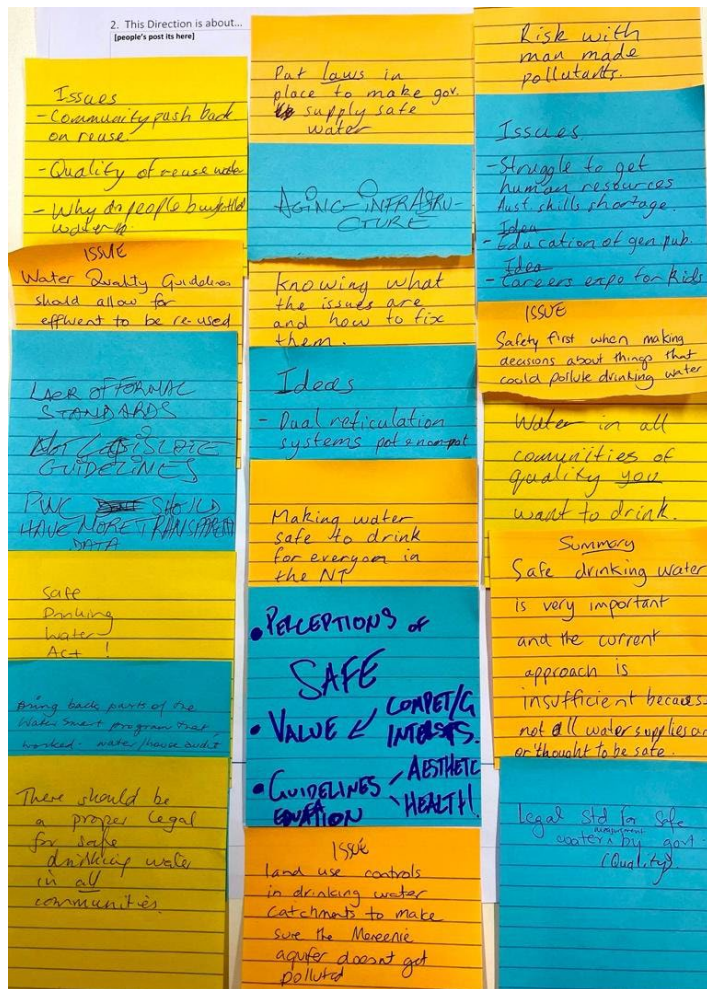


Image 29: Community Water Forum | Table 2, participant insight on what this Direction (drinking water is safe) is about.

Issues that need addressing/ideas

- Should have a consistent standard of water quality across the Territory
- This should be legislated (Safe Water Act), regulated and monitored
- Need to understand what the dangers are in drinking 'high levels of naturally occurring chemicals' [in water of some communities]
- Strict guidelines and laws to protect catchments from pollution – including consideration of dangers to water supplies in developments or changed land use
- Water reuse standards need to be reconsidered and developed to enable reuse of recycled water

### Table 3: Territorians are engaged in water stewardship

#### General themes

- All of community needs to be involved **for the good of future generations**
- Requires education, engagement and governance
- Value of water needs to be understood
- Grassroots involvement is essential for change and influence
- Needs to consider not just the human sphere but also the environmental

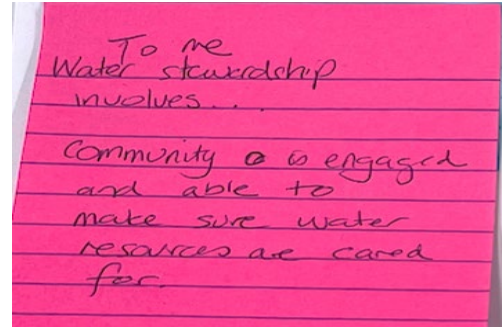


Image 31: Community Water Forum | Table 3, participant insight on water stewardship looks like.

#### Major issues/ideas

- Need to include everyone living here – some don't consider themselves Territorians (so need to actively include all to take responsibility)
- Need public education 'if people don't know, they don't care'
- Need practical opportunities for people to respond and take personal responsibility/action
- Need understanding of what 'stewardship is' and what does it look like when it is achieved
- Government transparency is necessary
- Governments should support groups that are working towards water security
- Need to 'give voice' to the environment

### Table 4: Water use is efficient and productive

#### Major issues/ideas

- Major community education and engagement program (revisit Alice Water Smart)
- Use pricing to change behaviour (negative incentives)
- Have incentives for water efficiency (positive incentives)
- Make water usage more obvious – e.g. Smart meters, linked to mobile phones
- Water recycling and use – support, policy
- Technology, design and infrastructure for efficiency:
  - Water capture, drainage design

#### Priorities

- Getting the policy right (that incentivises efficient use of water)
  - Government planning and working proactively - rather than reacting
- Education of the community/businesses
  - Pathways to efficiency need to be paved
  - Make Alice Springs an example of world's best practice in efficiency
- Designing and implementing infrastructure that maximises efficiencies
  - e.g. Need to make it easy for businesses to report and get leaks fixed

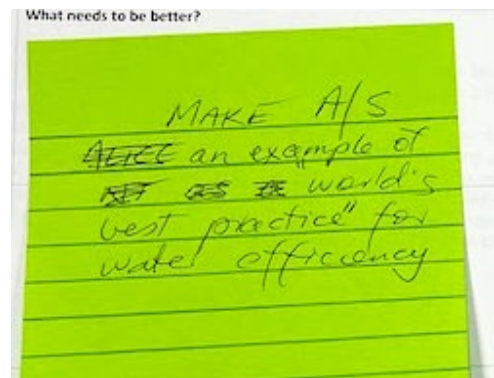


Image 32: Community Water Forum | Table 4, participant insight on what needs to be better.

## Table 5: Aboriginal connections to water are valued AND Water-dependent environmental values are protected.

These two directions were combined (a space and numbers decision) but this posed some difficulties in considering the two Directions. While there are some close interconnections between these two Directions, they are different and were considered differently in the discussion when necessary. This is illustrated in the summary of 'what this direction is about' the group developed as an early framing part of the discussion:

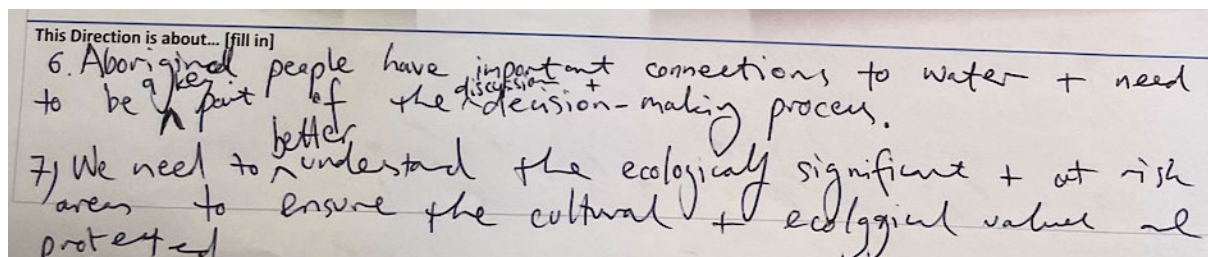


Image 33: Community Water Forum | Table 5, participants develop as an early framing of what their two Directions are about.

### Major issues/ideas

- Concerns for groundwater dependent ecosystems, waterholes, rivers and swamps, and how they have been impacted by development, including:
  - Middlepark waterhole
  - Coolabah swamp
  - Weeds
  - Salt build-up
  - Flow rates/disruption of water flow of the River and other water pathways
- Opportunities to rectify
  - Jobs
  - Infrastructure design
- The lack of connection between Aboriginal custodians and decision-makers around water
  - Lack of shared understanding
  - Lack of agency of Aboriginal people in this space
- Development seen as too often over-riding the longer-term

### Priorities

1. Development impacts on Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems in Alice Springs
  - Existing groups are working well (Lhere Mparntwe, Ankerre, Landcare groups) and Lhere Mparntwe strategy working well.
  - Improve water inundation; slow water flows in Coolabah Swamp. Need investment, remove saltbush, prioritise the environment
2. Trading off ecological values for economic development
  - Growth mindset needs changing
3. Lack of (Aboriginal) agency and shared understanding between decision makers and Aboriginal people
  - This process and the recent workshop kicking off on-going engagement with custodians is good, as is the Lhere Mparntwe group
  - Establishment of on-going Aboriginal water reference/engagement process needs to be achieved and ongoing

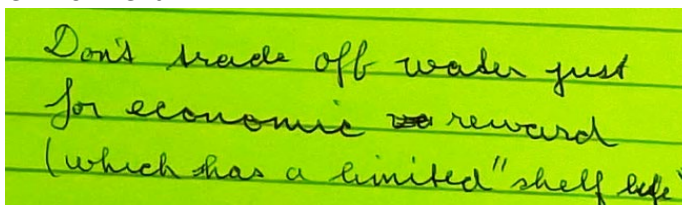


Image 34: Community Water Forum | Table 5, participant insight on 'economic versus environmental'.

## Consolidated findings

Six public events generated a significant amount of information and a range of views.

Over the course of this process, some priorities and consistent views were generated, although it is important to reiterate the limitations and caveats outlined in the [‘Community Submission – a word of caution’](#) section above – the vast majority of the views expressed are from people who chose to come to events, and are therefore already interested, and engaged in the issue.

One of the strongest, most consistent views that was raised was that we need to build and deepen community interest, understanding, engagement and commitment to making change in how water is considered and used within the District. There was recognition that wider and deeper engagement is necessary, which confirmed the *Talking Water – Kwatye Angkeme* campaign and engagement foundational strategy, which understood that the campaign was a beginning that needed to grow and consolidate a core group of committed people who would continue to work together to take forward a longer, deeper community engagement campaign. That goal was achieved.

The summary of views outlined below:

- does not purport to be representative of ‘the community’ at large
- prioritisation and weighting of views is very rough, at best
- by no means should it be understood that every person involved in the campaign agrees with every dot point, emphasis or view expressed below, and
- this submission should be read in conjunction with individual submissions to the consultation, which was encouraged at every opportunity throughout the process.

Nevertheless, and with those words of caution, a very useful sense of the issues, concerns, ideas and priorities can be drawn from the summaries and from the work done.

[Attachment 4: Summary of findings](#) lays out the key points generated from each engagement.

Below outlines the consolidated and summarised views and identified issues.

Some attempt at providing emphasis, weighting and prioritisation is made, based on an assessment of the number of times a particular point might be raised, on the level of consensus, general sense of the room. This is the Facilitator’s assessment, which was pressure tested and peer-reviewed by the Collective Workgroup and confirmed.

**Very strong, ongoing, and consistent emphasis Quite strong emphasis *Some emphasis***

Direction	Key findings
<b><u>Water governance is contemporary and coordinated</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Water is at the centre of community wellbeing and economic activity and should be connected to government’s planning</li> <li>▪ <b>A clear hierarchy of values needs to be established/and articulated</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b><u>Longer-term view needs to have precedence</u></b></li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b><u>Transparency and trustworthiness are in water governance and decision making is fundamental</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ e.g. transparency in cost/benefit calculations</li> <li>○ Policies and processes are required that are as transparent as drinking water</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Direction	Key findings
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b><u>Regulatory responsibility should be separated from decision-making – e.g. Water Controller should be independent of government</u></b></li> <li>▪ <i>Decisions on water should involve community and cultural impact analysis, not just environmental impact and economic analyses</i></li> <li>▪ <b><u>Aboriginal people need to be embedded into the governance of water and listened to</u></b></li> </ul>
<b><u>Drinking water is safe</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b><u>Need a consistent standard of water quality across the Territory which is legislated, regulated and monitored</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need to understand               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) dangers in drinking ‘high levels of naturally occurring chemicals’,</li> <li>and (ii) impact of water quality to health outcomes</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <i>Strict guidelines and laws to protect catchments from pollution – including land use</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Water reuse standards need to be reconsidered and developed to enable reuse of recycled water</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Outstation water quality needs to be addressed and infrastructure renewed</b></li> </ul>
<b><u>Water use is efficient and productive</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b><u>Policies are needed that incentivise efficient use of water</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Government planning and working proactively - rather than reacting</li> <li>○ Government uses its sole-shareholder status with Power and Water to drive engagement in demand management (goal)</li> <li>○ Use pricing and economic incentives to change behaviour (negative incentives)</li> <li>○ Have incentives for water efficiency (positive incentives)</li> <li>○ Recycling and use supported practically and by policy</li> <li>○ Set a sustainable use target</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>Education and engagement of the community/businesses to make Alice Springs an example of world’s best practice in efficiency</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b><u>Major community education and engagement program needed</u></b> (revisit Alice Water Smart)</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <i>Designing and implementing infrastructure that maximises efficiencies</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Technology, design and infrastructure for efficiency:</li> <li>○ Water capture, drainage design</li> <li>○ Need to make it easy for businesses to report and get leaks fixed</li> <li>○ Make water usage more obvious</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Water supports jobs and economic growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Without water, there is no economy in ASP</li> <li>▪ <i>Need to make sure developments don’t just benefit developers or affect country</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Community and Aboriginal values need to be included in development considerations</b></li> </ul>
Cities, towns and communities use the whole water cycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Designing and implementing infrastructure that maximises efficiencies           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Technology, design and infrastructure for efficiency</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Direction	Key findings
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recycling and use supported practically and by policy</li> </ul>
<p><b>Aboriginal connections to water are valued</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b><u>Need for Aboriginal agency and ongoing engagement in water issues</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b><u>Aboriginal water reference and engagement process needs to be achieved and ongoing</u></b></li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Need to build on success of groups working to protect water dependent places of significance</li> <li>▪ <b><u>Deep concern about some water dependent places</u></b></li> <li>▪ Need to tap into knowledge and longer term perspective</li> </ul>
<p><b>Water-dependent environmental values are protected</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b><u>Deep concern about some water dependent places</u></b></li> <li>▪ A lot of change since Europeans arrived <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Waterways</li> <li>○ Weeds</li> <li>○ Waterholes</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Development negatively affecting GDEs – need to prioritise and engineer to minimise impact (e.g. retain/slow for swamps, ensure good flow for river; need to ‘let the river run’)</li> <li>▪ <b><u>Negative impacts of trading off environmental values for development</u></b></li> <li>▪ Opportunities to rectify; this will need investment (but also an opportunity for jobs, engagement)</li> <li>▪ Need to build on success of groups working to protect GDEs</li> </ul>
<p>Water science, knowledge, skills and innovation are enhanced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Need to understand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) dangers in drinking ‘high levels of naturally occurring chemicals’, and</li> <li>(ii) impact of water quality to health outcomes</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Aboriginal knowledge needs to inform</li> <li>▪ New ways of (efficient) water use for substantial economic value need to be innovated</li> <li>▪ The needs of GDEs need to be known, considered and managed accordingly</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Territorians are engaged in water stewardship</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b><u>All of community needs to be involved for the good of future generations</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Grassroots involvement is essential for change and influence</li> <li>○ Requires education, engagement and governance</li> <li>○ Needs to be consistent because of high population turnover</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b><u>Major community education and engagement program needed</u></b> (e.g. revisit Alice Water Smart) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Value of water needs to be understood</li> <li>○ Need practical opportunities for people to respond and take personal responsibility/action to take personal responsibility</li> <li>○ Demand reduction is essential</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ We need to consider not just the human sphere, but also the environmental <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Need to ‘give voice’ to the environment</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



Direction	Key findings
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Need understanding of ‘what stewardship is’, and what does it look like when it is achieved</li> <li>▪ Government transparency is necessary</li> </ul>
Water resources management can adapt to change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Impact of climate change on environment and sustainable living needs to be embedded in planning and development of government and community stewardship</li> </ul>



Image 35: Ankerre (Coolabah Swamp) over time, with the effects of changes to water retention and flows resulting from road building and drainage engineering. Aboriginal and other people highlighted the fate of this water dependent environment. [Credit: House Elf Adventures, Facebook]

## Summary of findings

Community participant priorities could, at the risk of losing some detail, but with the benefit of simplicity, be summarised as follows.

The top four priorities are:

- **Drinking water is safe** and of consistent quality across the whole of the Territory.
  - This is assured through being legislated, regulated and monitored, and includes protection of water catchment from pollution, water reuse standards that enable effective water recycling and addresses water quality issues in outstations.
- **Water use is efficient and productive**, supported by policies and legislation that incentivises efficient use of water and disincentivises inefficient water use. This is not just at the consumer level but also the supplier level. Demand reduction should be supported by on-going community education and engagement offering practical solutions to reduce water demand.
- Everyone is **engaged in water stewardship, with everyone** taking responsibility for helping to create a more secure water future. This can only be achieved through an ongoing community and business education and engagement program working to make Alice Springs an example of world's best practice in water efficiency.
  - Through an on-going program similar to the 2011-13 Alice Water Smart program
  - This is especially important in a community with such a high turnover of people
- **Water governance** is contemporary and coordinated, guided by a well-articulated and understood hierarchy of values that favours long-term benefits, which is open, transparent and actively builds trust in decision-making.
  - Aboriginal people need to be consistently part of the governance of water and listened to
  - Regulatory responsibility should be separated from decision-making to avoid any erosion of that trust through real or perceived conflicts of interest – e.g. The Water Controller should be independent of government

*“The Community can't care about something that they're not aware of.”*

It was clear that many people deeply cared about directions not in the 'top four', but considered that prioritised attention to the above would lead to improvements they would like to see in other priorities. For example, strong legislation to protect drinking and environmental water would protect against pollution. Another example is that protection of the environment and climate change impacts would be best addressed if water was most efficiently used, and good decisions were made about water.

The next two – second tier – priorities are as follows:

- **Aboriginal connections to water are valued** by their involvement in water governance through an Aboriginal water reference group which is consistent and listened to. Their deep concerns about the state of water-dependent places of significance, including sacred sites, dreaming tracks, and other sites of cultural value should be acknowledged and acted upon.
  - Noting that effective water governance is a highest priority (above) and this explicitly requires formalised Aboriginal involvement
- **Water-dependent environmental values are protected** because there is almost universal concern that these have been or are being very significantly damaged by development. The negative impacts of trading off environmental values for development should be avoided.
  - The environment should be prioritised
  - Careful engineering should be used to minimise impact, for example in retaining water or slowing flow for swamps, ensuring good and fast flow for the river to 'let the river run'

The final tier of priorities is listed in the table above being:

- Water supports jobs and economic growth
- Cities, towns and communities use the whole water cycle
- Water science, knowledge, skills and innovation are enhanced
- Water resources management can adapt to change

Each has corresponding points made throughout the engagements.

The lack of emphasis on generating economic value from water, is perhaps reflective of the low profile of such use in the district. There are only a few horticultural enterprises, for example. There was a consistent view that our water is precious, too precious to waste on water-intensive, low value-return industries. Interestingly, the notion of generating economic activity through water use was not consistently dismissed, rather that water use would need to prioritise protection of cultural and environmental values and be very efficient and generate high value. This need to think smarter around economy and water is probably best reflected in the desire for 'New ways of (efficient) water use for substantial economic value need to be innovated', captured in the key findings of the 'Water science, knowledge, skills and innovation are enhanced' Direction.

The fact that this finding is captured under just one Direction is reflective of a broader point mentioned throughout the engagement process – that the ten Directions are not independent of each other. The fact that some Directions were prioritised over others by people because they saw their effects cascading through to other Directions reflects this interdependence. This is not a criticism – a systems approach is clearly needed – and the Directions Paper itself recognised the overlap between the Directions.

## Next steps

The campaign and engagement process were very successful in building a cohort of people very interested in the water security within the Alice Springs Water Control District and beyond.

- There is a core group of organisations and individuals (the present Collective) that have confirmed their commitment to keep working together and will meet in January 2022 to map out next steps
- The foundations for an ongoing Aboriginal Water Reference Group have been established, and
- A wider group of committed people has been activated and identified, and is likely to be responsive to further involvement and calls to action

However, the campaign did not effectively engage with the wider community to the breadth and depth necessary for significant positive change and true community water stewardship. The project Strategy recognised that the short campaign could not achieve that – rather that the establishment of a core group of more deeply activated participants was necessary to lay the foundations for wider, deeper impact.

These groups and many others involved in the engagement process prioritised **on-going community stewardship and governance** and **the development of an on-going community education and engagement program** (like Alice Water Smart) as essential for improving water security for the District.

The Project has generated a sense of expectation and promise of on-going and substantial community (including Aboriginal) involvement in water issues. This expectation needs to be fulfilled to support ongoing engagement and water stewardship from the Alice Springs community, to realise the town's water future and shared water story.

The Collective members recognised that such a process will need to be funded and facilitated, and have begun to consider how this could be achieved.

This Submission provides significant and thoughtful community input into the NT Strategic Water Plan Consultation process. It was generated based on the understanding that the views generated would be thoughtfully considered, be taken into account and would influence the Strategic Water Plan's final form.

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### A word of thanks and acknowledgement from the Project Facilitator

One of my roles in this project was to help bring together people and organisations to work together for a common purpose. I would like to acknowledge how terrific people were! The Collective worked very well together; people put their shoulders to the wheel, were responsive in amongst their busy lives, and were great fun to work with. Every one of the people listed in [Attachment 2: Members of the Collective that drove the Campaign](#) were terrific! I take this opportunity to publicly thank them and acknowledge their and their various organisations for their commitment to the process and to the water future for the District.

Another of my roles was to facilitate the public events, which was made easy because the people who came so freely participated and 'got into it'. I take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge the participants in the various workshops. Thanks for being great to work with! I also thank the people who helped make the workshops a success – for example, panellists, speakers, and co-hosts.

I acknowledge the support of DKRI in being the Project Backbone organisation, who went well over and above what could be reasonably expected. This project took on a life of its own and as a Collective we very possibly over-scoped what could reasonably be done within the time and budget. The crew at DKRI certainly stepped up to the plate. Dr Dan Tyson, Jeanette Elliot and Tracy Jones deserve special named acknowledgement in this public document.

#### **John Huigen**

17 December, 2021

### A word of thanks and acknowledgement from the Project Backbone

I take this opportunity to reinforce John's comments made above. DKA and DKRI have, as one of their key mandates (per the Desert Knowledge Australia Act, 2003), the role of building partnerships and networks to promote the harmony, sustainability, and prosperity of desert communities. This project was a wonderful example of the power of doing just that. Thanks and acknowledgement to all involved.

I acknowledge the NT Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security for the funding of this project, and thank Executive Director John Gaynor for his commitment and work with us on this project. I also thank Project Facilitator John Huigen for his commitment to the project, innovative facilitation methods, and consistent enthusiasm while conducting the workshops.

#### **Dr Dan Tyson**

CEO, DKA & Managing Director, DKRI

17 December 2021

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# Attachment 1: Partnership methodology

While this submission is primarily about the outcomes of a short, intense community engagement campaign, the following is a summary of the underpinning approach used to build the core partnerships and shared approach that provided the foundations for the community engagement program and for foreshadowed, on-going efforts. The approach used draws on a now well-recognised methodology called Collective Impact. This campaign was short, intense and less complex than most Collective Impact projects, but the basic ideas are the same.

## What is Collective Impact?

Collective Impact is a highly structured approach to tackle complex problems across all sectors and organisations. Collective Impact programs have been proven to create lasting large-scale progress through government, NGOs and businesses rigorously aligning their agenda, measurement, and activities to achieve social change.

## Five Conditions of Collective Success<sup>3</sup>

1. Common agenda
2. Shared measurement systems
3. Mutually reinforcing activities
4. Continuous communication
5. Backbone support organisation

## Differences to ordinary collaborative impact

- Whole system – systemic change
- Shared measurement systems
- Independent backbone organisation ‘holds the ring’

## Backbone organisations serve six essential functions: <sup>4</sup>

1. Providing overall strategic direction,
2. Facilitating dialogue between partners,
3. Managing data collection and analysis,
4. Handling communications,
5. Coordinating community outreach, and
6. Mobilizing funding.

In addition the backbone organisation(s) have a role in

- Maintaining a coherent and strategic vision through communication
- Supporting the process of learning and improving throughout the life of the project

## What is required in a backbone organisation?

- Independence and neutrality
- Expertise in
  - Facilitation
  - Impact measurement/measurement systems
  - Project management/project development
  - Systems thinking
  - Innovation (learning while doing)

## What is required of participating partners?

- Prepared to participate as an ‘equal’
- Skin in the game – contribution of time (real time) and resources/money
- Senior decision-maker commitment, and ongoing engagement/involvement/time
- Willingness to challenge own thinking and processes
- Suspend immediate need for impact and ‘payoff’

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<sup>3</sup> Kania, J & Kramer, M, ‘Collective Impact’, in Stanford Social Innovation Review, Winter 2011, p. 39-40

<sup>4</sup> Hanleybrown, F, Kania, J, & Kramer, M, 2012, Channeling Change: Making Collective Impact Work in Stanford Social Innovation Review, Jan 2012.

# Attachment 2: Members of the Collective that drove the Campaign

(and some acronyms)

Desert Knowledge Research Institute (DKRI) & Desert Knowledge Australia (DKA)  [Project Backbone]	Facilitator	John Huigen
	DKA CEO	Dan Tyson
	DKA Director	Gary Powel
	DKRI Chair	Steve Morton
	Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Officer	Tracy Jones
	Corporate Services Manager	Jeanette Elliot
Alice Springs Town Council (ASTC)	Environment Officer	Nathan Blight
	Manager Technical Services	TK Charlie (first meeting)
Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC)	General Manager	Jade Kudrenko
Central Lands Council (CLC)	Regional Land Management Coordinator	Martin Campbell
Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation (LAAC)	CEO	Graeme Smith
Northern Territory Government (NTG) Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security (DEPWS)	Director of Regions	John Gaynor
	Water Resources Planner	Adrian Tomlinson
NT Farmers Association	Industry Development Manager	Greg Owens
Past Water Advisory Committee members		Jimmy Cocking Rod Cramer
Power and Water	Water Demand Coordinator	Cail Raiment
	Water Systems Engineer	Adam Davis
Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA)	Board Member	Barb Shaw



# Attachment 3: Night Market Survey

## A quick water survey!

Your responses will be pooled and deidentified and help in our planning and understanding of what people think about water

### 1. How often do you think about water?

- All the time
- Sometimes
- Never give it any thought

Comments...

### 2. Do you know where our drinking water comes from?

- No idea
- Some idea
- Yes! Absolutely.

Comments...

### 3. How scarce or plentiful do you think our water is?

- We have plenty to last for ages
- It's limited but there's no real concern
- It's definitely limited and I'm concerned

Comments...

### 4. How much do you know about local Aboriginal perspectives on water?

- Pretty well nothing
- A bit
- I know quite a lot

Comments...

5. Northern Territory Strategic Water Plan is presently being developed and there's a community consultation happening. It talks about 'water security'.

**What does 'water security' mean to you?**

6. All the organisations you see around here have got together to help start a community conversation about our water future. There's workshops and events happening over the next weeks (see FACT Sheet).

**Do you want to be notified of these by email?**

Email address:

**Thanks!**  **FACT Sheet** (includes things you can do to help for a more secure water future)

**Have Your Say** about your water priorities **on the big board!**



# Attachment 4: Summary of findings

Very strong, ongoing, and consistent emphasis

Quite strong emphasis

Some emphasis

Direction	Key findings	Night Market	Input workshops with different perspectives				Community Forum
			People	Economy	Environment	Aboriginal	
<p><b>Water governance is contemporary and coordinated</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Water is at the centre of community wellbeing and economic activity and should be connected to government’s planning</li> <li>▪ <b>A clear hierarchy of values needs to be established/and articulated</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <u>Longer-term view needs to have precedence</u></li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>Transparency and trustworthiness are in water governance and decision making is fundamental</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ e.g. transparency in cost/benefit calculations</li> <li>○ Policies and processes are required that are as transparent as drinking water</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>Regulatory responsibility should be separated from decision-making – e.g. Water Controller should be independent of government</b></li> <li>▪ <i>Decisions on water should involve community and cultural impact analysis, not just environmental impact and economic analyses</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Aboriginal people need to be embedded into the governance of water and listened to</b></li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hierarchy of values</li> <li>▪ Clear policies and processes</li> <li>▪ Transparency in cost/benefit calculations □ trust</li> <li>▪ Cost and benefits are not just financial</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Longer-term considerations should be prioritised in water decision making</li> <li>▪ Need to plan for future generations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Aboriginal people need to be listened to</li> <li>▪ There needs to be a process to make this happen</li> <li>▪ Need long-term view when decisions made</li> <li>▪ Water Controller should be independent of government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Water is at the centre of community wellbeing and economic activity and should be connected to government’s planning</li> <li>▪ Decisions on water should involve community and cultural impact analysis, not just environmental impact and economic analyses</li> <li>▪ Transparency and trustworthiness are fundamental but presently are inadequate</li> <li>▪ Regulatory responsibility should be separated from decision-making</li> <li>▪ Issues should be dealt with at the most immediate level consistent with their resolution – should lead to greater community involvement</li> <li>▪ Processes are required that are as transparent as drinking water</li> <li>▪ The lack of connection between Aboriginal custodians and decision-makers around water                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lack of shared understanding</li> <li>○ Lack of agency of Aboriginal people in this space</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Drinking water is safe</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b><u>Need a consistent standard of water quality across the Territory which is legislated, regulated and monitored</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need to understand (i) dangers in drinking ‘high levels of naturally occurring chemicals’, and (ii) impact of water quality to health outcomes</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <i>Strict guidelines and laws to protect catchments from pollution – including land use</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ #2 Priority</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ #1 Priority</li> <li>▪ Values around survival, right to life, health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Water impacts health outcomes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Water quality in outstations is poor</li> <li>▪ Infrastructure in outstations (bores etc) needs to be fixed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Need to understand dangers in drinking ‘high levels of naturally occurring chemicals [in water of some communities]</li> <li>▪ Should have a consistent standard of water quality across the Territory</li> <li>▪ This should be legislated (Safe Water Act), regulated and monitored</li> <li>▪ Strict guidelines and laws to protect catchments from pollution – including consideration of dangers to water supplies in developments or changed land use</li> </ul>	

Direction	Key findings	Night Market	Input workshops with different perspectives				Community Forum
			People	Economy	Environment	Aboriginal	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Water reuse standards need to be reconsidered and developed to enable reuse of recycled water</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Outstation water quality needs to be addressed and infrastructure renewed</b></li> </ul>						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Water reuse standards need to be reconsidered and developed to enable reuse of recycled water</li> </ul>
<b>Water use is efficient and productive</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b><u>Policies are needed that incentivise efficient use of water</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Government planning and working proactively - rather than reacting</li> <li>○ Government uses its sole-shareholder status with Power and Water to drive engagement in demand management (goal)</li> <li>○ Use pricing and economic incentives to change behaviour (negative incentives)</li> <li>○ Have incentives for water efficiency (positive incentives)</li> <li>○ Recycling and use supported practically and by policy</li> <li>○ Set a sustainable use target</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>Education and engagement of the community/businesses to make Alice Springs an example of world's best practice in efficiency</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b><u>Major community education and engagement program needed</u></b> (revisit Alice Water Smart)</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <i>Designing and implementing infrastructure that maximises efficiencies</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Technology, design and infrastructure for efficiency:</li> <li>○ Water capture, drainage design</li> <li>○ Need to make it easy for businesses to report and get leaks fixed</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Make water usage more obvious</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ #1 Priority</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ #2 Priority</li> <li>▪ Saving for future generations strong common value</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There needs to be economic incentives to decrease water use (e.g. tiered pricing)</li> <li>▪ The more water used the more costly it will be (\$ and other costs)</li> <li>▪ Community engagement to reduce wastage (e.g. Water Smart campaign)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Need to reduce demand</li> <li>▪ Set sustainable use target</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We live in the desert not the tropics – need to be careful with water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Policies that incentivise efficient use of water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Government planning and working proactively - rather than reacting</li> <li>○ Use pricing to change behaviour (negative incentives)</li> <li>○ Have incentives for water efficiency (positive incentives)</li> <li>○ Recycling and use supported practically and by policy</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Education and engagement of the community/businesses to make Alice Springs an example of world's best practice in efficiency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Major community education and engagement program needed (revisit Alice Water Smart)</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Designing and implementing infrastructure that maximises efficiencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Technology, design and infrastructure for efficiency:</li> <li>○ Water capture, drainage design</li> <li>○ Need to make it easy for businesses to report and get leaks fixed</li> <li>○ Make water usage more obvious</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Water supports jobs and economic growth</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Without water there is no economy in ASP</li> <li>▪ <i>Need to make sure developments don't just benefit developers or affect country</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Community and Aboriginal values need to be included in development considerations</b></li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Without water there is no economy in ASP</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Need to make sure developments don't just benefit developers or affect country</li> <li>▪ Aboriginal values need to be included in</li> </ul>	

Direction	Key findings	Night Market	Input workshops with different perspectives				Community Forum
			People	Economy	Environment	Aboriginal	
						development considerations	
<b>Cities, towns and communities use the whole water cycle</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Designing and implementing infrastructure that maximises efficiencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Technology, design and infrastructure for efficiency</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Recycling and use supported practically and by policy</li> </ul>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ That recycling of water is important</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Designing and implementing infrastructure that maximises efficiencies</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Technology, design and infrastructure for efficiency</i></li> <li>○ <i>Recycling and use supported practically and by policy</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Aboriginal connections to water are valued</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b><u>Need for Aboriginal agency and ongoing engagement in water issues</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b><u>Aboriginal water reference and engagement process needs to be achieved and ongoing</u></b></li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Need to build on success of groups working to protect water dependent places of significance</li> <li>▪ <b><u>Deep concern about some water dependent places</u></b></li> <li>▪ Need to tap into knowledge and longer term perspective</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ‘Protection of cultural values’ was equal #4 Priority</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Water holes, soaks and swaps all valuable – part of maintaining culture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Need for Aboriginal agency and ongoing engagement in water issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aboriginal water reference and engagement process needs to be achieved and ongoing</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Need to build on success of groups working to protect GDEs</li> <li>▪ Deep concern about some GDE’s</li> </ul>
<b>Water-dependent environmental values are protected</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b><u>Deep concern about some water dependent places</u></b></li> <li>▪ A lot of change since Europeans arrived <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Waterways</li> <li>○ Weeds</li> <li>○ Waterholes</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Development negatively affecting GDEs – need to prioritise and engineer to minimise impact (e.g. retain/slow for swamps, ensure good flow for river; need to ‘let the river run’)</li> <li>▪ <b><u>Negative impacts of trading off environmental values for development</u></b></li> <li>▪ Opportunities to rectify; this will need investment (but also an opportunity for jobs, engagement)</li> <li>▪ Need to build on success of groups working to protect GDEs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ‘Environmental protection’ was #3 Priority</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ‘Environmental protection’ was #3 Priority</li> <li>▪ Values identifying link between environment and sustainable life, inherent value of environment</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ GDE must be prioritised and protected</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A lot of change since Europeans arrived <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Waterways</li> <li>○ Weeds</li> <li>○ Waterholes</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Need to ‘let the river run’</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Deep concern about some GDE’s</li> <li>▪ Development negatively affecting GDEs – need to prioritise and engineer to minimise impact (e.g. retain/slow for swamps, ensure good flow for river)</li> <li>▪ Negative impacts of trading off environmental values for development</li> <li>▪ Opportunities to rectify; this will need investment (but also an opportunity for jobs, engagement)</li> <li>▪ Need to build on success of groups working to protect GDEs</li> </ul>
<b>Water science, knowledge, skills and</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Need to understand (i) dangers in drinking ‘high levels of naturally occurring chemicals’, and (ii) impact of water quality to health outcomes</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New ways of (efficient) water use for substantial</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The needs of GDEs need to be known, considered and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Aboriginal knowledge needs to inform</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Need to understand (i) dangers in drinking ‘high levels of naturally occurring chemicals’, and (ii)</i></li> </ul>

Direction	Key findings	Night Market	Input workshops with different perspectives				Community Forum
			People	Economy	Environment	Aboriginal	
<b>innovation are enhanced</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Aboriginal knowledge needs to inform</li> <li>▪ New ways of (efficient) water use for substantial economic value need to be innovated</li> <li>▪ The needs of GDEs need to be known, considered and managed accordingly</li> </ul>			economic value need to be innovated	managed accordingly		<i>impact of water quality to health outcomes</i>
<b>Territorians are engaged in water stewardship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b><u>All of community needs to be involved for the good of future generations</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Grassroots involvement is essential for change and influence</li> <li>○ Requires education, engagement and governance</li> <li>○ Needs to be consistent because of high population turnover</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b><u>Major community education and engagement program needed</u></b> (e.g. revisit Alice Water Smart) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Value of water needs to be understood</li> <li>○ Need practical opportunities for people to respond and take personal responsibility/action to take personal responsibility</li> <li>○ Demand reduction is essential</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ We need to consider not just the human sphere but also the environmental</li> <li>○ Need to 'give voice' to the environment</li> <li>▪ Need understanding of 'what stewardship is' and what does it look like when it is achieved</li> <li>▪ Government transparency is necessary</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A strong emphasis on people taking personal responsibility for 'making a difference' – there are simple ways to do that</li> <li>▪ Population turn-over is a challenge to maintain understanding and commitments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A full community engagement strategy, with practical ideas to take personal responsibility for demand reduction is essential</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We all have to work together and be responsible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All of community needs to be involved <b>for the good of future generations</b></li> <li>▪ Grassroots involvement is essential for change and influence</li> <li>▪ Requires education, engagement and governance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Value of water needs to be understood</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Need to include everyone living here – some don't consider themselves Territorians (so need to actively include all to take responsibility)</li> <li>▪ Need public education 'if people don't know, they don't care'</li> <li>▪ Need practical opportunities for people to respond and take personal responsibility/action</li> <li>▪ Needs to consider not just the human sphere but also the environmental</li> <li>▪ Need understanding of what 'stewardship is' and what does it look like when it is achieved</li> <li>▪ Government transparency is necessary</li> <li>▪ Need to 'give voice' to the environment</li> <li>▪ <i>Major community education and engagement program needed (revisit Alice Water Smart)</i></li> </ul>
<b>Water resources management can adapt to change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Impact of climate change on environment and sustainable living needs to be embedded in planning and development of government and community stewardship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 'Climate Change' was #4 Priority</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 'Climate Change' was equal #4 Priority</li> <li>▪ Impact on environment and sustainable living a key driving value</li> </ul>				