



The Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP
Minister for Indigenous Australians
Member for Hasluck

Reference: MC19-009743

Mayor David O'Loughlin
President
Australian Local Government Association
8 Geils Court
DEAKIN ACT 2600

Dear Mayor O'Loughlin

Thank you for your correspondence of 14 August 2019 regarding a National General Assembly resolution. I apologise for the delay in responding.

The specific water related issues raised in the resolution are the portfolio responsibility of my colleague, the Hon David Littleproud MP, in his role as the Minister for Water Resources. I understand the Minister will provide a response for publication on your website. I do want to note that the Minister and I work closely together to ensure we are achieving the best outcomes for Indigenous Australians.

As a member the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) you would be aware that in December 2018, COAG committed to forming a genuine formal partnership with Indigenous Australians to finalise the Closing the Gap Refresh. One of the Closing the Gap priorities is "Land and Water", with the stated outcome that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' land, water and cultural rights are realised. The Australian Government's intention is that a Land and Waters target will be developed to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' access, management and ownership of land of which they have a traditional association, or which can assist with their social, cultural and economic development.

Thank you for raising this matter.

Yours sincerely

The Hon KEN WYATT AM, MP
Minister for Indigenous Australians

23 / 9 / 2019