

Att: Jacinta Ruru

Possible Abstract: Indigenous Rights to Water (An Australian Context)

**Professor Lee Godden
University of Melbourne**

“Recent policy and legislative reforms to water resource governance in Australia has seen changes to systems concerning of water planning, water entitlements and water trading- all of which have specific ramifications for Indigenous peoples' rights to water. Research conducted with participants from the Murray Lower Darling River Indigenous Network (MLDRIN) revealed the values, interests and concerns regarding Indigenous' peoples participation in water management in Australia's South-east. This paper contends that although there is a growing recognition of Indigenous involvement in water law and governance, effective and meaningful inclusion of Indigenous interests and thus access, rights and use in water resource management is constrained by the degree in which interests are recognised, and their subsequent inclusion within legislative water allocation policies and tenure regimes.”