



Water and native title



Water and Native Title: Why you can't just go with the flow ...

Three key takeaways:

1. Like with land, Aboriginal people were dispossessed of their rights to water – but with water it happened twice.
2. In the last few decades, water was legally “unbundled” from land, so that taking water was not an automatic right of land ownership. As water rights were no longer connected to land, those Indigenous landholders that acquired land rights did not acquire the right to use water on those lands in the manner they might have had their land rights been recognised or allocated prior to unbundling.
3. Despite Indigenous land now exceeding 30% of the total land in Australia, Indigenous-held “water access entitlements” are estimated at only 0.01% of total Australian water allocations.



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Thank you

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