Managing Dilemmas in Indigenous Community-Based Organisations: Viewing a Spectrum of Ways through the Prism of Accountability

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This paper explores the dilemma of accountability in Indigenous community-based organisations and the simplifying and moralising elements of the ‘good governance’ discourse to which such organisations are currently subject. It argues that Indigenous organisations are diverse and fundamentally ambiguous, straddling the demands of two very different ‘corporate’ cultures: that of remote Indigenous communities versus that of government bureaucracies and their agents.

Networked Governance: Issues of Process, Policy and Power in a West Arnhem Land Region Initiative

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This paper draws out what seem to be influential principles being used by Bininj, for designing a workable and legitimate form of local government at a regional level. These principles may be more broadly relevant for other Indigenous efforts to build governance arrangements at larger scales of population, organisational and cultural complexity. The paper highlights some likely future challenges for both Bininj and the government when their discourses about regionalised governance coincide or diverge.
Strange Bedfellows: Whole-of-Government Policy, Shared Responsibility Agreements, and Implications for Regional Governance

**Patrick SULLIVAN** – is a visiting Research Fellow at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, and a researcher on the Indigenous community Governance Project (ICGP), and Australian Research Council Linkage Project (No. 0348744) between the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research at The Australian National University and Reconciliation Australia. His research is supported both by AIATSIS and by the Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre’s project Demand Responsive Service Delivery (CP5).

This paper reviews the development of ‘whole-of-government’ policies as they stood about eighteen months after implementation and also predicts some of the potential outcomes. The paper notes that it was written with cautious optimism that some aspects of the new policy would prove productive, and that they haven’t must be the subject of a new discussion rather than an amendment to what follows.

The Ti Tree Creek Camp Study: A Contribution to Good Governance

**Will SANDERS** – has been a researcher at The Australian National University in various aspects of Indigenous affairs policy since 1981. He joined the staff of the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) at The Australian National University in 1993, where he is now a Senior Fellow. Will is a Chief Investigator on the Indigenous Community Governance Project (ICGP), an ARC Linkage Project between CAEPR and Reconciliation Australia and **Sarah HOLCOMBE** – is a Research Fellow at CAEPR, primarily working on the ICGP, and part-time Social Science Coordinator for the Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research centre (DKCRC). She was previously Postdoctoral Fellow at CAEPR for three years. Prior to that, she worked for the Central and Northern Land Councils.

This paper is based on an in-depth study of Creek Camp, an area of self-made dwellings occupied by Aboriginal people running along the western and south-western sides of Ti Tree, a small roadside town in the Northern Territory. It reports the findings of three sets of interviews, return visits over a ten month period, and the Anmatjere Community Government Council and NT Government responses to the reports and argues that the study has contributed to good governance by both identifying ideas for change and clarifying obstacles for changes.

The Language of Governance in a Cross-Cultural Context: What Can and Can’t Be Translated

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English is now the global language of governance and development, and many of the terms of discourse are similarly dependent for their meaning on the cultural assumptions of English-speaking peoples. This paper explores the implications for governance discourse in Indigenous contexts in Australia, focusing on research with the Yolngu people of north-east Arnhem Land over 30 years, and in more recent times, in the context of a case study of the Laynhapuy Homelands Association as part of the Indigenous Community Governance Project.

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**Figuring Out Governance: Capacity Development for Indigenous Councils and Organisations**

**Janet HUNT** – is a Fellow at the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) at the Australian National University where she manages the Indigenous Community Governance Project (ICGP), an ARC Linkage Project with Reconciliation Australia. Her background is in education and international development and she has lectured in International and Community Development at RMIT and Deakin universities. She has worked for many years in international development with a particular focus on the Pacific and South East Asia. She was Executive Director of the Australian Council for Overseas Aid and the International Women’s Development Agency, and has worked more recently with a range of local and international non-government organisations in East Timor. She has a long standing interest and involvement in Australia and International Indigenous human rights and policy issues and has been active in ANTAR.

This paper refers specifically to Indigenous organisations which fulfil local government or related roles. It recognises that these are essentially intercultural bodies, which may or may not reflect the more underlying culturally embedded principles and approaches to governance evident in the Indigenous domain. They thus reflect an often difficult compromise between Indigenous systems and ways of doing things and those expected by the colonising state – to the extent that it is now impossible to separate these highly embedded and inter-connected ‘domains’.

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**The Promise of Regional Governance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities**

**Alex REILLY** – is a Senior Lecturer at Macquarie University and **Larissa BEHRENDT** – is Professor of Law and Indigenous Studies and the Director of the Research Unit of the Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning, University of Technology, Sydney. **Prof. George WILLIAMS** – holds the Sir Anthony Mason Chair of Public law and is the Director of the Gilbert and Tobin Centre for Public Law, University of New South Wales and **Ruth McCausland** – is Senior Research Fellow, Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning, University of Technology, Sydney. **Mark MCMILLAN** – is Senior
This paper provides thoughts on the importance of Indigenous governance generally and the emergence of regional governance as a preferred model, highlighting the existing legislative frameworks that enable some form of Indigenous governance to exist. It examines the repealed ATSIC Act 1989 (Cth), the most comprehensive national and regional governance structure that had existed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia and explores the only remaining part of the structure, the Torres Strait Regional Authority: a model that many Indigenous communities refer to in their aspirations for regional governance.