



AARES
AUSTRALASIAN AGRICULTURAL &
RESOURCE ECONOMICS SOCIETY

NSW BRANCH AGM and end-of-year seminar and drinks

Dr Rohan Henry

Consultant, One-Basin CRC, Committee on Aboriginal Water Interests

John Madden

Director Arche

Aboriginal Water Ownership: Combining governance and economics to turn on the tap

There have been several recent initiatives undertaken to progress Aboriginal water ownership, including an announcement of a boost in funding from \$40 million to \$100 million to buy water rights for Indigenous groups to use for cultural and economic purposes.

At a national level, the Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Water Interests advises on these issues - identifying and prioritising national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander water reform directions. The NSW Government is also co-designing a state-wide Aboriginal water strategy to identify a program of measures to increase Aboriginal people's water rights. An inland waters target is under consideration through the Closing the Gap national agreement.

Given the intent and resources available, the speakers on our panel will speak to the policy challenges facing those charged to make decisions in this space. The seminar will outline the role of setting clear and specific objectives and the importance of assessing options when developing state-wide approaches. The creation of opportunities to generate profit, employment and business ventures will require much more than providing money to enter the market.

Dr Rohan Henry is an experienced consultant and director who is Deputy Chair, Committee on Aboriginal Water Interests. He has a long history of working across the water, coastal and renewable energy sectors in both Victoria and NSW. He has significant experience collaborating and partnering with Traditional Owner Corporations and their communities.

John Madden is an experienced agricultural economist who has worked at CSIRO, state water departments, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal and was appointed Associated Commissioner for Water at the Productivity Commission in 2017-19 presiding over a review of National Water Reform which called for a new approach to Aboriginal water ownership under the National Water Initiative.

Thursday 14 December 2023

Corinthian Room of the Sydney Masonic Centre at 66 Goulburn Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Committee meeting 4:00pm - 4:30pm

NSW Branch AGM 4:30pm - 5:30pm

Seminar 5:30pm - 6:30 pm

End of year drinks and canapes 6:30pm - 7:30pm

This is a free event and non-members are encouraged to attend.

Please **RSVP by 8 December** by registering here: [REGISTRATION PAGE](#)

Enquiries: AARES.nsw@gmail.com