Water at Yalata, 2009, 93 x 44cm ochres on bark #3589Y
Indigenous Affairs on 22 October 2009. The Productivity Commission raised this question as COAG was signing off on the National Indigenous Reform Agreement (Closing the Gap). The Agreement locks in an approach agreed by the Commonwealth and States and Territories for the next decade, unfortunately decided during an interregnum when there is no national Indigenous representative organisation with whom to negotiate. The Rudd Government should seriously consider the Productivity Commission’s advice on what works: partnerships, bottom up rather than top down approaches, good governance – including by governments – and sustained support on an equitable needs basis.

Northern Territory Intervention

The national emergency and moral panic has dragged on with the media and public losing interest. The Government is quietly altering the discourse and the Intervention is now called Closing the Gap Northern Territory. The findings in the latest Government progress report on the Northern Territory Emergency Response Intervention are damning of its effectiveness. Professor Jon Altman from the Australian National University calls the findings “extremely disappointing.” The Report shows that violence is up, malnutrition is up and truancy is up.

Altman asks can statistical goals, even if endorsed by COAG, ensure outcomes if not negotiated with the purported partners? The Productivity Commission raised this question as COAG was signing off on the National Indigenous Reform Agreement (Closing the Gap). The Agreement locks in an approach agreed by the Commonwealth and States and Territories for the next decade, unfortunately decided during an interregnum when there is no national Indigenous representative organisation with whom to negotiate. The Rudd Government should seriously consider the Productivity Commission’s advice on what works: partnerships, bottom up rather than top down approaches, good governance – including by governments – and sustained support on an equitable needs basis.

Northern Territory Intervention

ANTAR www.antar.org.au

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Advocacy for action on the National Indigenous Reform subjects? The Productivity Commission raised this question as COAG was signing off on the National Indigenous Reform Agreement (Closing the Gap). The Agreement locks in an approach agreed by the Commonwealth and States and Territories for the next decade, unfortunately decided during an interregnum when there is no national Indigenous representative organisation with whom to negotiate. The Rudd Government should seriously consider the Productivity Commission’s advice on what works: partnerships, bottom up rather than top down approaches, good governance – including by governments – and sustained support on an equitable needs basis.

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Storming the future

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