REGIONALISM
Emerging Models, Principles & Policy Challenges
Traditional Indigenous regions

Some underlying principles

- Cultural geography – kin, law, language
- Land ownership jurisdictions
- Relational or ‘connected autonomy’
- Subsidiarity – tiers of authority & responsibility

= Fluid regionalism plus decentralisation
‘Traditional’ Indigenous regions

= informal federations of autonomous groups for specific shared purposes, accompanied by a reservation of the independence of the individual groups forming the federation
Regional Model with representation based on Indigenous clan, language or family groups
The Thamarrurr Model
Regional model based on Wards - representation through community, organisation, & traditional ownership
Regional model based on homeland ‘hub and spokes’ representation
Regional model based on an umbrella “family” of organisations and board
Regional model based on peak body and confederation of community bodies

- Peak Body
  - Each Community/Org elects its own community representatives/management board after a traditional preselection process
  - Community organisations or other bodies
  - Traditional Group does ‘Preselection’
Regional federated bi-cameral model

First Chamber: Council of Elders, Traditional Owners

Second Chamber: Regional Service Delivery Organisation/Council

Elders, TOs

Indigenous Communities of Ownership, Identity & Interest
Policy Challenges

- The limits of regionalism
- Poor subsidiarity
- Resolving representation
- Governance capacity
- Government capacity
- Juridification
- Funding
- Time & Negotiation