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## Hard Data, Soft Data

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## Hard Data, Soft Data

*Louise Boscacci (University of Wollongong, Australia)*

bone nullarbor cradles continent above whale bight  
gale-face heaths hug limestone pans  
sand curlews call mirning memories  
across pink pigface at dawn

upland kneebush and bluebush roll  
ridge to swale  
cool blowholes talk emptybellied  
of sea  
wedgetails wait long on karst spirals  
but woylies and sticknest builders have gone  
to offshore islands  
and the museum records

we listen  
hard data  
soft data  
data  
dat  
datum  
all day older people sing spinifex songs from red sand places  
there are many dialects  
for land  
and loss