Hard Data, Soft Data

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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