



Don Harwin
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

MEDIA RELEASE

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SECOND LOCAL DECISION MAKING MILESTONE REACHED WITH MURDI PAAKI

The NSW Government and the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly (MPRA) have strengthened their relationship with a commitment to renewed Local Decision Making (LDM) arrangements, first established in 2015.

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Don Harwin signed the Second Accord with MPRA Chairperson Des Jones via a virtual ceremony, attended by MPRA members, members of Aboriginal Affairs NSW and wider NSW Government stakeholders including Head of Aboriginal Affairs Lil Gordon and TAFE NSW Regional General Manager Kate Baxter.

Minister Harwin said that the Government was keen to make necessary improvements for stronger delivery of Accord schedules and implementation.

“Our agreement with the Assembly has always been based on mutual respect and cooperation, and in maturing our work together, we are committed to a full partnership with shared accountability for success,” Mr Harwin said.

“With focused effort from both sides I’m confident that our new agreement will deliver on the negotiation, operation, structure, resourcing and processes required to strengthen our working in ensuring Aboriginal communities are acknowledged across local service design, planning and delivery,” he said.

MPRA Chairperson Des Jones welcomed the new agreement and said that it signified a new chapter in the self-determination of its communities in working with government.

“The Assembly has come a long way in twenty years and we are proud of our active history in driving regional autonomy and self-determination across the Murdi Paaki Region”.

“Feedback from our member communities has been vital in reaching this new Accord and we appreciate the support and hard work undertaken by both the MPRA and NSW Government Accord committee in getting us here”.

“I’m confident that today’s signing will help us progress improvements to deliver even stronger outcomes across the next few years,” he said.

MPRA and Government Lead Negotiators will meet next to negotiate schedules around the priorities for the three-year accord, leading with Economic Development, Law and Justice, Early Childhood & School Education, including health outcomes

across these identified priority areas.

As well as being the first LDM accord undertaken by Aboriginal Affairs NSW in 2015, a separate Social Housing Agreement was also signed with MPRA in 2018. Today's accord is the second formal instrument of agreement between the NSW Government and the Assembly, and the sixth Accord overall from Aboriginal Affairs NSW.

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