



# Agreement to improve Aboriginal social housing outcomes in the Murdi Paaki region

Regional Aboriginal Housing Leadership Assembly (RAHLA)



## **1. PREAMBLE**

The NSW Government and the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly (the Assembly) have entered into an Agreement (under the auspices of the Murdi Paaki Local Decision Making Accord) to work together to improve outcomes for Aboriginal people in the Murdi Paaki Region.

The NSW Government and the Assembly have further agreed, among other initiatives, to work in partnership through the Agreement to improve Aboriginal social housing outcomes in the Murdi Paaki region.

This Agreement is underpinned by the Accord signed between the Assembly and the NSW Government, and the governance established under this Agreement may be considered in other aspects of Accord implementation.

## **2. STRATEGIC FOUNDATION TO THIS AGREEMENT**

The parties acknowledge that the Assembly has completed a comprehensive review of Aboriginal housing in the region and developed a proposal, which will be considered by the Regional Aboriginal Housing Leadership Assembly (RAHLA) when implementing the objectives of this Agreement.

The review is documented in the following Reports:

- Social Housing Providers and Assets Audit Report – Report No 1;
- Sustainable Social Housing Models Report – Report No 2; and
- Training and Capacity Development Plan – Report No 3.

## **3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

Through this Agreement, the RAHLA is tasked with devising and pursuing actions as a joint decision making body to achieve the following objectives:

- Support joint decision making on the delivery of social housing outcomes in the Murdi Paaki region;
- Advise government and the Assembly on ways to direct social housing programs and policies to operate effectively and efficiently, to respond to the priorities of Aboriginal communities in the region and establish mutually agreed service outcomes with the NSW Government;
- Conceive, develop, plan and implement strategies and actions to give effect to the allocation of the \$15 million; and
- Commence the co-design of an Aboriginal social housing plan for the region.

## **4. GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS AND STRUCTURE**

The RAHLA will include:

- Independent and eminent Chair (to be agreed by both parties) as appointed by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs;
- Four senior NSW Government representatives to be nominated by the Minister; and
- Four representatives from the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly.

Other non-voting members may be invited at the discretion of the above membership.

RAHLA will draft and endorse a Terms of Reference, consistent with this Agreement, within four months from the date that this Agreement is ratified. The Terms of Reference and Membership will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Murdi Paaki Services will act as Secretariat for the RAHLA and will be resourced to fulfil this function.

All parties to this Agreement commit to supporting the activities of the RAHLA in a co-operative and collaborative manner.

## **5. ROLES**

The role of RAHLA, in broad terms, is to:

- Provide strategic and policy leadership for this Agreement ensuring a cohesive and coordinated approach between all parties;
- Monitor the implementation of this Agreement and prescribed actions, and to address and resolve any issues with implementation;
- Scope an appropriate entity/entities to undertake and oversee the delivery of priority projects and to develop a longer term framework for delivering social housing and economic outcomes in the Murdi Paaki region;
- Review the Assembly's Regional Housing and Business Consortium Proposal and draft Transition Plan to consider a longer term framework for social housing in the Murdi Paaki region;
- Oversee the performance management of this Agreement including development of the evidence base and data analysis to verify that outcomes are being achieved; and
- Develop an Implementation Plan to guide the implementation of this Agreement within six months from the date that this Agreement is ratified.

## **6. DURATION AND AMENDMENT OF THIS AGREEMENT**

This Agreement will come into effect from the date it is ratified and continue for three years from that date or until all of the parties agree to terminate this Agreement or prepare another Agreement.

It is agreed that amendments to this Agreement are to be endorsed by all parties to this Agreement.

A Review of the Agreement and outcomes will be undertaken at the conclusion of the three year term and will underpin the negotiation of a subsequent Agreement.

## **7. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

RAHLA will manage conflicts consistent with the *Local Decision Making Dispute Resolution and Loss of Faith Policy*.

## **8. PERFORMANCE REPORTING, REVIEW AND EVALUATION**

Through RAHLA, parties will jointly monitor and review progress against the Agreement. The parties will provide sufficient information to RAHLA for this purpose.

A baseline set of indicators against which to assess the performance of this Agreement will be drafted within six months from the date that this Agreement is ratified and a review schedule will be finalised within 12 months.

The NSW Government and the Assembly jointly commit to the development of subsequent actions in an equitable and cooperative manner and within the timelines specified.

A progress report on the implementation of this Agreement will be prepared on an annual basis. At the end of the third year of operation of this Agreement, the efficiency and effectiveness of the Agreement will be reviewed.

The RAHLA will draft and agree to a Terms of Reference for the review and the method of carrying out the review. The Review will focus on the efficiency and effectiveness of this Agreement in delivering the stated objectives in accordance with agreed timeframes and performance indicators.

Consistent with OCHRE's approach to community-led, independent evaluation that delivers the evidence that is of benefit to Aboriginal communities, the Agreement and RAHLA may also be subject to an evaluation, pending community agreement.

## **9. PROJECT PRIORITISATION AND DELIVERY**

RAHLA will finalise and implement a project prioritisation protocol that contains evaluation criteria for assessing and prioritising projects. An initial project prioritisation and evaluation criteria has been developed. Three preliminary projects will be decided upon by RAHLA within six months from the date that this Agreement is ratified.

Project delivery (and associated funding flows) is to occur in line with the aims and objectives of this Agreement and consistent with the principles of NSW Government procurement.

## **10. RESOURCING AND DECISION MAKING AUTHORITY**

Consistent with the aims and objectives of this Agreement and the project prioritisation protocol, the RAHLA will make decisions on the best way to utilise resources. This includes the \$15 million allocation already committed to the Murdi Paaki region.

This Agreement commences on the 10 December 2018.

Signed for and on behalf of the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Des Jones', written over a horizontal dotted line.

Des Jones, Chair of the  
Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly

Signed for and on behalf of the State of NSW by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Sarah Mitchell', written over a horizontal dotted line.

The Hon. Sarah Mitchell MLC  
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

