



OCHRE

GROWING NSW'S FIRST ECONOMY



Growing NSW's first economy is the NSW Government's framework to promote the economic prosperity of Aboriginal people and communities in NSW.

Our vision is simple: wealth creation for Aboriginal people through increased employment and enterprise development.

OUR COMMITMENT

Aboriginal people will contribute to our strong economy

Economic prosperity is not new for Aboriginal people. For millennia Aboriginal communities managed Australia's land and natural resources sustainably, engaged in trade and developed an impressive bank of intellectual property.

Today, the NSW economy is Australia's strongest and fastest-growing. To ensure Aboriginal people contribute to and benefit from that economic strength, the NSW Government is committed to: employing more Aboriginal people; using our purchasing decisions to drive Aboriginal employment and business development in the private and non-government sectors; and supporting Aboriginal people to attain relevant education and skills.

OUR APPROACH

Aboriginal people in the mainstream economy

In 2015, NSW Premier Mike Baird outlined 30 State Priorities, including 12 Premier's Priorities designed to create a stronger, healthier and safer NSW. Together the priorities form a framework known as *Making it happen*.

That framework can be used to create economic prosperity for Aboriginal people in NSW. It offers people a staged pathway from early childhood education, through the acquisition of skills, higher education or vocational training, and from there into paid work as an employee or a business owner. It also offers to Aboriginal people opportunities to own their own homes and supports a greater focus on Aboriginal economic participation when planning and building community infrastructure.

Growing NSW's first economy is not a stand-alone policy. It does not prescribe specific programs or initiatives for Aboriginal people. Its approach is different. *Growing NSW's first economy* integrates Aboriginal economic participation into NSW Government Priorities which focus on:

- jobs and employment
- education and skills
- economic agency.

Some commitments in *Growing NSW's first economy* are new; others are pre-existing. All are embedded in the Government's broader economic agenda, set out in *Making it happen*.

Recently the NSW Government released *Jobs for the Future*. That report sets a target of one million new jobs for NSW by 2036. Equipping Aboriginal people with the education, skills and confidence to compete successfully for these new jobs is the best way to ensure that their talents and energy contribute fully to the NSW economy, and that their lives can be transformed as a result.

OUR TARGET To support Aboriginal people at all stages of life

ECONOMIC PILLARS	NSW GOVERNMENT PRIORITY	COMMITMENT TO ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN NSW
Jobs and employment	Driving public sector diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NSW Public Service to double the number of Aboriginal people in senior leadership roles Aboriginal employment in all clusters and salary bands to reach 1.8% by 2021
	Creating jobs and supporting businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every government construction contract over \$1 million (and/or contracts specifically for Aboriginal communities), includes a target for expenditure on Aboriginal participation. The target must be at least 1.5% of the construction and design costs. The NSW Government will strengthen its current procurement commitment beyond construction contracts. Barriers to Aboriginal employment to be addressed, so NSW becomes the best State for Aboriginal people to work under the NSW Government's <i>Jobs for the future</i> commitment.
Education and skills	Improving Aboriginal education outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 95% of Aboriginal children to be enrolled in the year before full-time school in quality early childhood education programs The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in top two NAPLAN bands for reading and numeracy to increase by 30%
	Boosting apprenticeships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15% of 25,000 Jobs of Tomorrow Scholarship Fund scholarships to be awarded to Aboriginal young people Completion rate for Aboriginal apprentices and trainees to reach 65% by 2021
Economic agency	Building infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All regional and district plans to include Aboriginal economic participation by 2019
	Making NSW the easiest State to start a business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 5% of Aboriginal owned and operated small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in NSW are supported by the NSW Government's small business advisory services each year
	Creating sustainable social housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proportion of Aboriginal households successfully transitioning from social housing into private rental and/or home ownership to increase by 20% by 2019

MORE TO COME

Support for Aboriginal-owned businesses

Since *OCHRE*, our community-focused plan for Aboriginal affairs, was released in 2013, the NSW Government has spent \$94.1 million procuring goods and services from Aboriginal-owned businesses.

We can do more this way. We are going to use government procurement decisions to help Aboriginal businesses grow and expand. These businesses don't just employ Aboriginal people; they are also a critical component of the social fabric of the communities where they do business. Their success contributes to local and regional economies, and promotes economic stability and prosperity.

The NSW Government is due to respond to the Legislative Council Inquiry into Aboriginal Economic Development in the first half of 2017. Further information about the NSW Government's Aboriginal procurement policies and the implementation of *Growing NSW's first economy* will be released then.

Reporting on progress made against the commitments in *Growing NSW's first economy* will appear in future *OCHRE* annual reports.

LET'S HAVE A YARN

If you want to know more about our work in this area, please contact:

enquiries@aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au

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