



FACT SHEET: GOOD GOVERNANCE GUIDELINES

The Good Governance Guidelines (the Guidelines) provide a transparent pathway for regional alliances to progress through Local Decision Making, practicing good governance in accordance with good governance principles.

What are the good governance principles?

The principles reflect key dimensions of governance as identified by the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, and provide a starting point for assessing governance in practice.

When assessing governance in accordance with good governance principles the following important parameters should be considered:

- They are not a magic checklist, but an ideal that people can work towards;
- No society or government in the world has fully attained them;
- They have important cultural foundations that will determine how they play out in practice;
- They overlap and sometimes reinforce each other;
- Judgement and balance need to be used in their application;
- They require both qualitative and quantitative evidence;
- Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal views and expectations need to be investigated; and
- Practical, simple measures need to be identified that can be used by leaders, organisations and governments.

What are the Good Governance Guidelines?

The Guidelines are designed to support Aboriginal regional alliances to progress through each phase of Local Decision Making by focussing on specific good governance principles, not at the exclusion of all others.

It is important to note that the good governance principles will apply to and carry over each phase of Local Decision Making.

Particular principles including governance capacity development, the governance environment and governance of government will cut across each phase of Local Decision Making and may support (or constrain) regional alliances efforts to strengthen their governance arrangements.

How will regional alliances governance be assessed?

The NSW Government recognises that due to the diversity of circumstances in Aboriginal communities there will be no 'one size fits all' model of 'good governance' for Local Decision Making.

Exactly how regional alliances demonstrate or exhibit particular good governance principles is up to each regional alliance.

However, the NSW Government will need to be satisfied that regional alliances are practising good governance before transferring greater decision-making authority.

Clear criteria for assessing regional alliances governance in accordance with the good governance principles, will be negotiated and agreed in Local Decision Making Accords.

Establishment and Start Up – Advisory Delegation (Phase 1)

Prior to Phase 1 Accord negotiations, each regional alliance will need to work out how their regional alliance will run and make decisions, including how they will be accountable to the broader community.

As part of this work the regional alliance will need to demonstrate *Scope of Decision-making, Leadership, Decision-making and Self-determined Regions and Legitimacy*.



LOCAL DECISION MAKING

Advisory Delegation (Phase 1) – Planning Delegation (Phase 2)

If a regional alliance decides it wants to progress to Phase 2 of Local Decision Making, this will need to be outlined in the Phase 1 Accord. Before they can progress to Phase 2 the regional alliance will need to demonstrate *Strategic Direction, Participation and Voice and Accountability*.

Planning Delegation (Phase 2) – Implementation Delegation (Phase 3)

If a regional alliance decides it wants to progress to Phase 3 of Local Decision Making, this will need to be outlined in the Phase 2 Accord. Before they can progress to Phase 3 the regional alliance will need to demonstrate *Resource Governance and Organisational Performance*.

Governance of government

The Guidelines also highlight the need for NSW Government agencies to strengthen their capacity to formulate policy and service delivery guidelines, and implement downwards accountability and funding mechanisms which are flexible and responsive to the needs of regional alliances, whilst recognising Aboriginal leadership and decision-making.

Governance capacity development

As part of Accord negotiations, NSW Government agencies and regional alliances will need to negotiate capacity strengthening strategies and identify resources to ensure regional alliances are able to meet prerequisite good governance principles and that government is flexible and responsive to the needs of regional alliances.

The governance environment

Regional alliances do not exist in isolation, but are “situated within a wider, inter-connected ‘governance environment’ that spreads across local, regional, state and national levels”. The wider governance environment will have major, ongoing impacts on the role and effectiveness of regional alliances.

Local Decision Making includes a whole-of-government accountability framework designed to facilitate change and flexibility, and ensure that government is not overly bureaucratic.

