



Leslie Williams

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
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MEDIA RELEASE

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HUNTER CONFERENCE TO STRENGTHEN ABORIGINAL-GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS

More than 140 local Aboriginal leaders and government representatives will gather in the Hunter Valley on November 14 and 15 to discuss how they can work together more closely and effectively.

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Leslie Williams said the Local Decision Making Conference is part of the NSW Government's commitment to work in partnership with Aboriginal communities.

"Local Decision Making is a key initiative of *OCHRE*, the NSW Government's community-focused plan for Aboriginal affairs," Mrs Williams said.

"It's an innovative process that will over time see Aboriginal people have a greater say in determining what and how services are delivered in their communities.

"Since the introduction of the Local Decision Making model in 2013, several Aboriginal regional alliances have formed to give voice to the needs and priorities of the communities they represent.

"It's an important opportunity to build on experiences and lessons learned so far, strengthen partnerships and networks, and develop a shared long-term vision for community governance."

The conference features keynote speakers from the first nations of New Zealand, Canada and Australia.

Aboriginal alliances from around NSW are expected to attend, including: Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly (Far West), Three Rivers Regional Assembly (Central West), Illawarra-Wingecarribee Alliance Aboriginal Corporation (South Coast), Regional Aboriginal Development Alliance (Tweed Heads to Clarence Valley), Tribal Wave Assembly (Coffs Coast to Karuah), Barang Aboriginal Regional Partnership (Central Coast) and Northern Region Aboriginal Alliance (New England North West) and the Riverina-Murray Regional Alliance.

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