

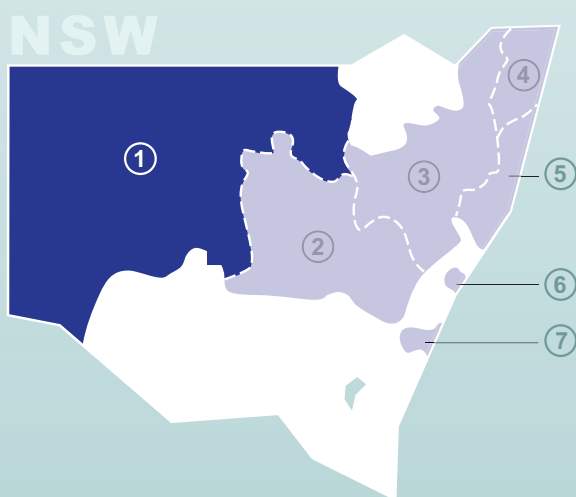
## About the Murdi Paaki Local Decision Making process



The Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly is the regional Aboriginal governance body for the Murdi Paaki Region representing the interests of Aboriginal people across the communities of Gulargambone, Coonamble, Walgett, Collarenebri, Lightning Ridge, Goodooga, Weilmoringle, Brewarrina, Enngonia, Bourke, Cobar, Wilcannia, Broken Hill, Menindee, Ivanhoe, and Dareton/Wentworth. There are close to 8,400 Aboriginal people living in these communities with an estimated 11 per cent under 5 years of age.

In December 2013, the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly became part of the *OCHRE* Local Decision Making program and in February 2015 signed a binding Accord with the NSW Government. The Accord sets out agreed priorities and projects, and the rules on how decision-making will be shared between the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly and government. The Accord is transforming the way Aboriginal communities and government work together by giving Aboriginal communities a progressively bigger say in what services are delivered in their communities, and how they are delivered.

Accord priorities include affordable and appropriate housing, economic development, education, childhood services and governance capacity and support. The Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly and the NSW Government have also deferred priorities for future negotiation, including domestic, family and lateral violence, child safety, Aboriginal incarceration rates and culture and language development.



### Local Decision Making

- ① **Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly**
- ② Three Rivers Regional Assembly
- ③ Northern Region Aboriginal Alliance
- ④ Regional Aboriginal Development Alliance
- ⑤ Tribal Wave Assembly
- ⑥ Barang Central Coast Aboriginal Regional Partnership
- ⑦ Illawarra Wingecarribee Alliance Aboriginal Corporation



## About OCHRE

In 2012 and 2013 some 2,700 Aboriginal people in NSW stated that Aboriginal language and cultures, education and employment and accountability are important priorities for Aboriginal communities. The NSW Government responded with OCHRE (Opportunity, Choice, Healing, Responsibility, Empowerment). OCHRE recognises the importance of healing, and commits the NSW Government to ongoing dialogue with communities to progress healing.

OCHRE is the community-focused plan for Aboriginal affairs in NSW. It supports:

- **Connected Communities** – where schools work in partnership with Aboriginal leaders in the local community to improve education outcomes for young Aboriginal people
- **Opportunity Hubs** – which provide young Aboriginal people with clear pathways and incentives to stay at school and transition into employment, training or further education.
- **Industry-Based Agreements** – partnerships with peak industry bodies to support Aboriginal employment and enterprise
- **Language and Culture Nests** – to revitalise and maintain languages as an integral part of culture and identity
- **Local Decision Making** – where Aboriginal communities are given a progressively bigger say in what services are delivered in their communities, and how they are delivered. The Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly is part of Local Decision Making.
- **An Aboriginal Economic Prosperity Framework** – that drives the long-term and sustainable economic prosperity of Aboriginal people and their communities across NSW
- **A Deputy Ombudsman (Aboriginal Programs)** – to provide independent oversight over Aboriginal programs.

OCHRE commits the NSW Government to a different way of working with, and in support of, Aboriginal communities by building strong working partnerships that have at their heart respect for local Aboriginal culture, leadership and decision making.

