



Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly

Chairperson: William (Sam) Jeffries

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Calls to back Alcohol bans in Bourke

At the recent 25th Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly MPRA meeting in Cobar held on the 11th-12th December, discussions took place about the Bourke Alcohol Working Group's proposal to push for bans and restrictions of certain alcohol products in Bourke.

MPRA Chairperson Sam Jeffries said that "Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly supports the Bourke Community Working Party CWP and the Bourke Alcohol Working Group BAWG to pursue the notion of alcohol reform in Bourke".

"Research suggests that alcohol is the single most contributor to assaults, sexual assaults and domestic and family violence, not just in Aboriginal communities but the broader community also" said Mr Jeffries

Mr Jeffries added "MPRA understands that are a significant number of reform suggestions put forward by the BAWG and also understand that there are business and policing considerations that need to be taken into account along with the proposed reforms".

"MPRA encourages rational and constructive debate around the proposed reforms, at times it can be an emotive issue and that sometimes causes discussions to be tense and to breakdown which resolves nothing" Mr Jeffries said .

Mr Jeffries further added "essentially the BAWG have identified that the Bourke community has problems stemming from alcohol use that needs to be addressed, Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly hopes that an acceptable position can be reached by all the stakeholders so that this problem can be dealt with in a co-ordinated and collaborative way".

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Bourke
Collarenebri
Goodooga
Menindee

Brewarrina/Ngamba
Coonamble/Wan-Gali
Gulargambone
Walgett/Gamilaroi

Broken Hill
Dareton/Wentworth
Ivanhoe
Weilmoringle

Cobar
Enngonia
Lightning Ridge
Wilcannia