

**MINUTES OF THE 42<sup>nd</sup> MURDI PAAKI REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2012 at Cobar Bowling & Golf Club, 9.00am - 5.00pm**

MPRA members in Attendance	<p>Mr Sam Jeffries, Chair, Regional Assembly          Mr Norman Hall, Collarenebri Community Working Party          Mr Ted Fernando, Coonamble Community Working Party          Ms Fay Johnstone, Ivanhoe Community Working Party          Ms Cheryl Johnstone, Menindee Community Working Party          Mr Allan Cobb, Lightning Ridge Community Working Party          Ms Jeanette Barker, Brewarrina Community Working Party          Ms Maureen O'Donnell, Broken Hill Community Working Party          Ms Joan Evans, Cobar Community Working Party          Mr William Johnson, Wentworth/Dareton Community Working Party          Mr George Fernando, Walgett Community Working Party          Mr Des Jones, NSW Aboriginal Lands Council representative western region</p>
Guests	<p>Ms Shannon Barnes, Boomalli Consulting          Mr Steve Butler, Acting Regional Director Murdi Paaki region, AANSW          Ms Alison Bentick, DEWAR</p>
Apologies	<p>Mr Wayne Reid, Gulargambone CWP          Ms Christine Hooper, Goodooga CWP          Mr Alistair Ferguson, Bourke CWP          Mr Ted Fernando (apologies Thursday)          Mr Allan Cobb, Mr George Fernando and Mr Norman Hall will be leaving early on Thursday          Mr Steven Ryan NSW Aboriginal Lands Council          Mr William Bates for Monday and Wednesday due to other commitments</p> <p>MOVED: That apologies be accepted          Moved: Joan Evans          Seconded: George Fernando          Carried</p>
Chair of the Meeting	Mr Sam Jeffries

**MINUTES OF THE 41<sup>st</sup> MURDI PAAKI REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> June, 2012 at Cobar Bowling & Golf Club, 9.00am - 5.00pm**

Minutes Taken By	Ms Carole Medcalf, Brewarrina Business Centre (Minutes and Secretariat Support)
------------------	---

Issue & Discussion	Action
<p><b>Welcome</b> All members welcomed to this meeting by Mr Sam Jeffries</p>	
<p><b>Minutes Silence</b></p>	
<p><b>1. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA</b> Richard Weston Healing Foundation is unable to attend so additional time may be made available. Discussion re: the Connected Communities presentation later in the agenda</p>	<p>MOVED: That the Agenda is accepted. Moved: Allan Cobb Seconded: George Fernando CARRIED</p>
<p><b>2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b> Allan Cobb Chair of LRLALC and Board Member BBC Board, George Fernando- MPHousing</p>	
<p><b>3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong Women’s project changes to previous Minutes. SWP funds remain – previous motion says that the monies were to be distributed equally. Discussion in the sub group identified \$1000 per group.</li> <li>Application process to be determined which will go to the Steering Group and be approved, forwarded to the BBC. Issue with determination by Steering Group is it takes away the role of the CWP. Letter to CMA explained – Letter to be sent re: natural resource management framework. Local groups not necessarily getting enough feedback from the Board.</li> <li>Clontarf group going well in Coonamble and school appears very happy with current results</li> <li>Discussion about the impact of local actions which require legal action having national implications while costs are borne by local groups.</li> <li>Information about acquittals for monies paid to CWP and who has been paid will be provided later in the meeting.</li> <li>Agenda for Refresh for Bourke CWP was sent out. Resignation from Chair was tendered to Chair of MPRA, and a couple of other people. Still uncertain about situation –to be clarified by Bourke.</li> <li>Documents in Supreme Court for LR Child and Family Centre regarding Native Title issues. Land Council expecting response 3 July 2012</li> <li>Funds for Young Leaders program to be distributed and timeframe for expenditure established. Broken Hill CWP Chair would like to thank everyone for the opportunity given to young people to participate in the Indigenous Youth Parliament through the Young Leaders program. Position has been advertised to replace the previous leader. MPREC invited here as there are 4 young leaders from that organisation but none have attended. Need to bring them back into the MPRA for governance and leadership training as succession training for the</li> </ul>	<p>MOTION: That minutes be accepted Moved: Allan Cobb Seconded: Ted Fernando CARRIED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ACTION: BBC to find out the timeframe for funds to be expended.</li> </ul> <p>MOTION: MPRA reaffirms its previous decision that SWP monies to be distributed equally across the CWP’s. Money for the regional forum to be discussed with FAHCSIA and determine whether a forum will be held. Flexibility around the use of the money required.</p> <p>Moved: Jenny Barker Seconded: Fay Johnson CARRIED</p>

**MINUTES OF THE 41<sup>st</sup> MURDI PAAKI REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> June, 2012 at Cobar Bowling & Golf Club, 9.00am - 5.00pm**

Issue & Discussion	Action
<p>communities. Cobar has no Young Leaders program and would like to re-establish it with identified young people at High School. Young leaders program has experienced difficulties in a number of communities. Need to keep an eye on potential young leaders who may not be in schools as well. Significant numbers of young leaders participants have gone on to university and are looking to return to communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transfer of office in Bourke still to occur, building to be managed and to be made available for MPRA members to hold meetings.</li> <li>• Payment of wages for CWP Chairs is being pursued. Some Chairs have had their attendances approved while others have not. Attorney General's Department is one where there are difficulties. Steve Butler will follow up with State Government agencies.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4. INWARD/OUTWARD CORRESPONDENCE</b>  Further correspondence to be tabled next meeting.  Cobar Council's alcohol free zone received as positive step in Cobar. Further discussion about \$4 million for Brewarrina and Bourke gone to Outback Division of General Practice. Recognition of previous positive work in Brewarrina and Bourke through CWP's.  Indigenous Governance Awards may bring visitors to MPRA to assess the work of the MPRA. If successful the prize is \$10,000 to be directed towards Young Leaders program.  May need to think about a marketing plan to increase possibilities to showcase what the MPRA does – this follows on from positive response from Tiga Bayles media interviews with Chair.</p>	<p>MOVED: That correspondence be accepted  Moved: Allan Cobb  Seconded: Maureen O'Donnell</p> <p>CARRIED</p>
<p><b>5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report provided to meeting (to be attached to next Minutes).</li> <li>• Discussion with Police graduates about leadership and role of Aboriginal police and their role and expectations of community.</li> <li>• Connection between indigenous business and corporate world.</li> </ul>	<p>MOTION: That Chairman's report be accepted and endorsed.  Moved: George Fernando  Seconded: Allan Cobb</p> <p>CARRIED</p>

**MINUTES OF THE 41<sup>st</sup> MURDI PAAKI REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> June, 2012 at Cobar Bowling & Golf Club, 9.00am - 5.00pm**

Issue & Discussion	Action
<p><b>6. MPRA FUTURE DIRECTIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shannon Barnes, consultant from Boomalli is attending to continue to discuss the Regional Plan and Community Action Plans. Shannon is visiting communities to write Community Action Plans. CPO's identified 3 key priorities in each community as a minimum to assist in the identification of any themes that comes out across the communities. Development of Community Action Plans stemmed from that. The following points were made about changes that have been made to the draft Regional Plan to date:</li> <li>• Page 12 of the Regional Plan – regional economy. Previously based on DEWAR estimates additional industries have been added to primary industries.</li> <li>• Page 14 – education Tracey Simpson has made adjustments to data/statistics to reflect Murdi Paaki region. Includes comparative data between Murdi Paaki region and the rest of NSW. This will be included in Plan. Gap between Murdi Paaki children and the rest of NSW is narrowing at Year 10 re: school retention but not at year 12.</li> <li>• Page 19 Health – statistics reflect more specific MP information. GWAHS contacts have provided statistics provided by Shannon. Point of difference between longevity for Aboriginal men and women and non Aboriginal men and women.</li> <li>• Page 20 – causes of death differences between MP region and the rest of the state are now included but need to reflect Aboriginal/non Aboriginal differences clearly.</li> <li>• Page 21 – housing and infrastructure. Changes need to be made. AHO won't give maintenance updates nor would they give housing standards out but gave ownership figures. AHO has a preferred providers list and notified that they were updating providers. Schedule of rates were also not provided by AHO. No comparison can be made with mainstream standards unless the standards used by AHO are made available. In terms of overcrowding it would be necessary to determine the number of bedrooms in each dwelling. AHO would/could not provide the information. Quality of workmanship in the development of housing will determine longevity and standards of Aboriginal housing.</li> <li>• Broken Hill precluded from accessing air conditioning and other monies in a way that is different from other areas in MPRA.</li> <li>• Allocation of housing is based on waiting lists but when families are sharing houses sometimes waiting lists don't reflect real numbers of need. Census figures also don't reflect accurate figures of need in Aboriginal MPRA areas.</li> <li>• Page 22 Law and justice – reintegration figures still coming. MPRA figures very difficult to access/find. Most disadvantaged area in the country according to census data. Higher than in most areas, including victimisation rates, violence, removal from natural family, theft. Imprisonment rates significantly higher.</li> <li>• Wilcannia example of crime rates/domestic violence dropping when people were employed and rising once job skills program stopped. Courts are bailing people to other areas enabling criminal activity to be transported to</li> </ul>	<p>MPRA Chairperson to approach AHO for Standards and guidelines. Steve Butler to also follow that up.</p> <p>Chair passed from Sam Jeffries to George Fernando at 11.36am. Chair resumed by Sam Jeffries at 11.39am</p> <p>Pursue figures for law and justice through Aboriginal Legal Service and Attorney Generals.</p> <p>If Regional Plan highlights law and justice problems, then the new Agreement may be able to lead to involvement from Attorney Generals to address some of the more significant issues. Preventative programs possibly to be identified and emphasised.</p>

**MINUTES OF THE 41<sup>st</sup> MURDI PAAKI REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> June, 2012 at Cobar Bowling & Golf Club, 9.00am - 5.00pm**

Issue & Discussion	Action
<p>other areas. Local Area Command have been reluctant to provide statistics for planning purposes. Junee and Wellington jails also reluctant to provide statistics. Junee suggested being 'compensated' for their attendance at MPRA to provide their information as private prison providers. Reluctance appears to be based on possible identification of offenders. All related to previous factors. Potential collection place might be Juvenile Justice as they visit schools to visit clients/young offenders. Identify potential support mechanisms for those with social problems.</p> <p>Page 28 – reflects picture of Aboriginal/indigenous prisoners and offenders. Circle sentencing is different to Victorian models where they have case management processes in place.</p> <p>Page 26 – language in community will be a big part of Connected Communities</p> <p>Page 28 – culture and heritage seen as an essential building block by MPRA in addition to those on which government programs rest. Needs to be included in Regional Plan. Language taught to all children in LR school, program designed by community and agreed by community. Issues to be sorted about which language would be taught. Values, respect, also coming through as important needs for culture and heritage. This building block is dominant across all other building blocks by the MPRA. Underpins the consent that needs to be negotiated with MPRA, the decision making processes and informed consultation that is required. Report back protocols are to be valued and reflected in the interaction between government and CWP's. Acknowledgement of different cultures present in towns while still respecting local culture. Keeping culture intact has been made almost impossible because of previous government displacement policies which were enforced on Aboriginal people. Agencies need to recognise current day impacts of culture and heritage for Aboriginal people and their decision making processes.</p> <p>Pages 31- 42 – Community says section reflects community voices. Themes coming through several CWP's will be included in the Regional Plan while other identified activities will be included in Community Action Plans. Bourke, Brewarrina, Broken Hill, Cobar, Collarenebri, Coonamble, Wentworth/Dareton, Engonnia, Goodooga, Gulargambone, Ivanhoe, Lightning Ridge, Menindee, Weilmoringle, Walgett and Wilcannia have identified their priorities to Shannon Barnes for use in the Regional Plan and Community Action Plans. Repatriation of carved trees in Collarenebri will be one local project which will have significant impact on and for the region. Wentworth/Dareton need to address housing in order for people to access services. Towns in the area are negatively impacted because some services come from Victoria, some from Broken Hill and Dubbo. Statistical data does not assist the area as it is sometimes recorded in separate areas. Broken Hill has similar issue with being identified for SA health services. These things will affect border communities across the nation.</p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation constraints identified include capacity of non lead agencies to respond to community priorities. The capacity of CWP's to take up the range of activities differs because of access to resources both human and financial. There is no central co-ordination point for measuring activities and implementation. Workshop already held to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework for the Regional Plan which will also be imbedded in the next</p>	<p>Existing cultural projects such as the Brewarrina Fishtraps and Collarenebri carved tree repatriation need to be reported on from the Office of Culture and Heritage.</p> <p>Motion: Letter from MPRA to DEWAR, FACSHIA and DAA to indicate information and workshops from CPO's regarding actions against CAP's has not been forthcoming. Either information gets forwarded or Boomalli consultant is engaged to run workshops in each community or other resources be made available to ensure that CAP's are</p>

**MINUTES OF THE 41<sup>st</sup> MURDI PAAKI REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> June, 2012 at Cobar Bowling & Golf Club, 9.00am - 5.00pm**

Issue & Discussion	Action
<p>RPA. Baseline measurements need to be available to enable effective progress or lack of progress to be determined. Without adequate resources monitoring will not be able to be carried out and the MPRA will need to operate as it currently does. Half the time of the CPO's is to be spent in support of the CWP's. Initial role in MPRA was to get recognition for CWP's in partnership programs. Current attendance of CPO's in community does not reflect that split. Sharing cars restricts their capacity to support in some instances and government needs to ensure that resources are available. If CWP's contact their CPO's as part of their role, they can then facilitate the attendance of particular government agencies at each CWP meeting, and to assist in implementing and monitoring action against priority issues of each community.</p> <p>Page 46 – Greater participation in developing better education outcomes.</p> <p>Community Action Plans were supposed to be completed by December 2011 then extended to March 2012 and June 2012. CPO information regarding the completion of actions against the Plans was supposed to be forwarded to Shannon Barnes to enable her to write up the actions against Plans.</p>	<p>completed in a timely and efficient manner.            Moved: Ted Fernando            Seconded: Jenny Barker            CARRIED</p> <p>Motion: That the current draft Regional Plan with agreed amendments and additions in Law and Justice and Health be endorsed by the MPRA to be finalised between the MPRA Chairperson and Boomalli Consulting when completed.</p>
<p><b>Australian Electoral Commission – Pauline Middleton</b></p> <p>Presentation on voting requirements, reasons for not voting and educational sessions in communities. Anyone getting a licence or Centrelink payments are automatically registered to vote in the State and local government elections. Fines are issued for non voting so its important to enrol and to vote. Section of the Act or regulation to be provided by AEC prior to community workshops. Because of past fines it is important. This would ensure more Aboriginal people run for office, get elected and assist people in participating in the voting.</p>	<p>Moved: Maureen O'Donnell            Seconded: Joan Evans</p> <p>CARRIED</p>
<p><b>Wilcannia CWP sits on 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday so that would be preferred, LR to email. Steve Butler to be contacted for CWP details to draw up a schedule of visits.</b></p>	<p>Motion: That the MPRA Chairperson works with the AEC/IEP to seek an amnesty be granted by the Federal Government for Aboriginal people to void any fines for non voting that may have accumulated to enable Aboriginal people to participate more fully in the democratic processes.</p>
<p><b>7. GENERAL BUSINESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial reports presented. Review of meeting costs to reflect Chair costs. May need to broaden use of funds. CPO's advised that \$500 is available from AANSW although dates may be closed. Corporate Credit Card will be issued to Chairperson. Limit of \$5,000.</li> <li>General discussion re: communities: attendance is a struggle sometimes in some communities. Wentworth/Dareton set dates for next year, Johnn Warren foundation drew 35 young people, interference from AANSW, members at Ngemba CWP tired of impact from interference from government agencies and small section of community who are stopping work from progressing. Government gives platform to people in the community who don't believe in the CWP process but they wish to have control of it. Ivanhoe CWP successfully accessed \$ for a new playground. Held teddy bear's picnic with 35 kids. Western zone LALC's getting to 100%</li> </ul>	<p>Moved: Maureen O'Donnell            Seconded: Jenny Barker            CARRIED</p>

**MINUTES OF THE 41<sup>st</sup> MURDI PAAKI REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> June, 2012 at Cobar Bowling & Golf Club, 9.00am - 5.00pm**

Issue & Discussion	Action
<p>compliance. Held forums to build capacity across the region. Difficulties in getting 10% of membership for voting purposes- is that ever going to change? There is a requirement for voting members to attend two meetings per year in order to vote in the Board elections. Wilcannia CWP has had a refresh and William Bates has been returned as Chair. New government access being built. Very few local Aboriginal people have had jobs through being an RSD site and the additional money that has come into Wilcannia. Walgett CWP had a refresh and Christine Corby was elected again as Chair. Meetings being held in Shire offices with less attendees. Collarenebri CWP meeting scheduled for July. LR CWP meetings held but no quorum. Working on CAP, over next week or two. MPRH and AHO have addressed some of the housing needs in LR. Quality of work not good. NAIDOC celebrations starting next week based on tent embassy for Menindee CWP. Sub groups produced great results yesterday.</p>	
<p><b>Meeting Closed at 6.15pm</b></p>	
<p><b>Wednesday 20 June 2012</b>  <b>Attendance (per attendance list)</b></p>	
<p><b>Alison Bentick DEWAR</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Presentation regarding changes to JSA (presentation attached to Minutes)</li> <li>2. IEP program – Desirable outcomes Guarantee of work, Training provided, address barriers, partners, level and appropriateness of support, past performance, outcomes achieve, value for money, mentoring. Mildura (Nylinga) example given by Des Jones. (Presentation attached to Minutes)IEP will need to fit the processes being introduced. Anything being approved now will need to be able to be completed by 1 July 2013.</li> <li>3. Currently Feiona Shields western NSW IEP Manager DEWAR based in Orange (02)63636771 is managing IEP in the Western Division.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Fair Loans Foundation - Justin Hatfield and David Liddiard</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Presentation (attached to Minutes) regarding low interest loans for individuals \$1,000 -3,000 to assist in the development of good individual credit ratings and to assist where traditional credit lenders are charging high rates of interest.</li> </ol>	<p>Motion: That MPRA write to the Minister for FAHCSIA to support the work of the Fair Loans Foundation, particularly in the MPRA region.          Moved: Faye Johnstone          Seconded: Jenny Barker          Carried</p>
<p><b>NSWALC presentation – Des Jones (attached to Minutes)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Update on the work of NSWALC, particularly work in the MPRA region and possibilities for engaging with LALC’s. Contact details for Social Enterprise Finance Australia to be provided.</li> </ol>	

**MINUTES OF THE 41<sup>st</sup> MURDI PAAKI REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> June, 2012 at Cobar Bowling & Golf Club, 9.00am - 5.00pm**

Issue & Discussion	Action
<p>2. <b>SEFA Australia</b>  Level 1, 18 Bulletin Place, Sydney NSW 2000  Email: <a href="mailto:info@sefa.com.au">info@sefa.com.au</a>  Website: <a href="http://www.sefa.com.au">www.sefa.com.au</a>  Telephone: (02) 8199 3360</p>	
<p><b>Indigenous Business Australia – Kirsty Mcqueen and Karin</b></p> <p>1. Presentation (attached to Minutes) regarding home loans, business loans and investment opportunities for Indigenous people. Lower interest loans, business research, support and mentoring available. Possible partnerships or support opportunities discussed for MPRA region.</p>	
<p><b>Connected Communities (Education Department)</b>  MPRA adjourned to teleconference with Carol McDiarmid at Cobar High School to hear a presentation about NSW State Government’s recent announcement of Connected Communities money and policy for a number of schools in the MPRA region to assist schools and communities to address educational disadvantage.</p>	<p>Motion: That the MPRA region retain Western Region Director and School Education Director in the role in the Connected Schools program  Moved: Jenny Barker  Seconded: Allan Cobb  Carried</p>
<b>Thursday 21 June 2012</b>	
<p><b>Carol mcDiarmid rang back to have</b></p> <p><b>Natalie Walker, AIMSC</b></p> <p>1. Presentation on Australian Indigenous Minorities Supply Council role (presentation attached to Minutes) followed by discussion regarding possible opportunities in MPRA region. Areas identified included: Catering/conferencing, Couriers, Crisco replacements, travel agencies, stationery, tourism-agencies, marketing, accommodation, equipment/machinery servicing, waste management, mining, hire cars, IT, Food farming- chilli’s.  Look at opportunity to purchase existing company and grow business with community members as company shareholders.  NSWALC and petroleum exploration possibilities.  Transfer stations and transport hubs  May need to buy in expertise but keep control to ensure growth. Manufacturing opportunities in the region –</p>	<p>Motion: MPRA to write to support Collarenebri community to assist in the repatriation of carved trees. Moved:Allan Cobb  Seconded: George Fernando  Carried</p>



**MINUTES OF THE 41<sup>st</sup> MURDI PAAKI REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> June, 2012 at Cobar Bowling & Golf Club, 9.00am - 5.00pm**

Issue & Discussion	Action
<p>perhaps approach Fletchers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Example in Alaska where community purchased mine by leveraging against land rights, developed a scholarship fund for community young people educated at best universities. They also provide services.</li> <li>3. Need to bring major players together to discuss what industry requirements are going to be in 18 months, 5 years and 10 years. AIMSC are willing to support MPRA. Also example in Mt Isa of the Indigenous women's cabling company.</li> </ol> <p><b>Meeting closed 10.35am.</b></p>	

**MINUTES OF THE 41<sup>st</sup> MURDI PAAKI REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> June, 2012 at Cobar Bowling & Golf Club, 9.00am - 5.00pm**

<b>Issue &amp; Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>NEXT MEETING: 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> September 2012 –</b>	

