

MINUTES OF THE 39th MURDI PAAKI REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

HELD ON 6th – 8th September, 2011 at Cobar Bowling & Golf Club, 9.00am - 5.00pm

MPRA members in Attendance	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 Mr William Johnson, Wentworth/Dareton 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 CWP Mr Gordon Sullivan, Enngonia CWP Mr Phil Sullivan, Bourke CWP (Tues, Wednesday) Mr Alistair Ferguson, Bourke CWP (Thursday) Mr Des Jones, NSWALC Councillor, Western Region
Guests	Mr Leonard Hill, ICC Manager, Dubbo Ms Christine Bruce, State Manager, FaHCSIA Ms Anjali Palmer, Area Manager, Greater Western – AANSW Ms Angela Dew, Wobbly Hub and Double Spokes Project Ms Kate Baxter, Director, Western Institute of TAFE Mr Rod Towney, Western Institute of TAFE Mr Mick Williams, Bourke CWP Mr Bruce Bennett, Brewarrina CWP

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Apologies	<p>Ms Joan Evans, Cobar Community Working Party Mr William Bates, Wilcannia CWP Ms Christine Hooper, Goodooga CWP Mr James Christian, Executive Director, AANSW Mr Alistair Ferguson, Bourke CWP (Tuesday, Wednesday) Mr Des Jones, NSWALC Councillor (Wednesday, Thursday) Mr Phillip Sullivan, Bourke CWP (Thursday)</p> <p>MOVED: That apologies be accepted Moved: Mrs Fay Johnstone Seconded: Mr Wayne Reid CARRIED</p>
Chair of the Meeting	Mr Sam Jeffries
Minutes Taken By	Mr Bill Palmer, Brewarrina Business Centre (Minutes and Exec Support)

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Issue & Discussion	Action
<p>Welcome All members welcomed to this meeting by Mr Sam Jeffries</p>	
<p>Minutes Silence</p>	
<p>APOLOGIES Ms Joan Evans, Cobar Community Working Party Mr William Bates, Wilcannia CWP Ms Christine Hooper, Goodooga CWP Mr James Christian, Executive Director, AANSW Mr Alistair Ferguson, Bourke CWP (Tuesday, Wednesday) Mr Des Jones, NSWALC Councillor (Wednesday, Thursday) Mr Phillip Sullivan, Bourke CWP (Thursday)</p>	
<p>1. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA Congratulations offered to Mr Des Jones for his success in the recent NSWALC elections Meetings with MPREC, MPRH, and Maari Ma to be held over to next meeting</p>	<p>MOVED: That the Agenda be accepted. Moved: Mrs Jeanette Barker Seconded: Mr Allen Cobb CARRIED</p>
<p>2. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern raised at the high cost of AHO Housing rentals (up to \$210 a week) • Minutes to be amended: Mr Wayne Reid to be added to attendance; Ms Fay Johnstone definitely attended on Thursday, Ms Barker was an apology for Thursday. Mr Jones not in attendance therefore no motion for apologies. Mr Fernando in attendance Tuesday but not Wednesday and Thursday. • Ms Ingram wants to finalise invoices for Regional Assembly. Mr Jeffries to meet with DG and Ms Ingram. • Issue raised of no purchase order to determine correct funding and that any future meetings will have to be paid in advance. • Page 12: Letter tabled to MPRA that had not been tabled at the local CWP. • Concern expressed that local issues should not be raised at the MPRA level, local issues need to be dealt with at the local level. • Concern raised re CorporateConnect AB to ensure that every community had access to corporate support. More direct contact required rather than through MPREC. Concept of corporate support to access the major dollars is generally supported. • Page 6: Reconfirmed that Maari Ma has not funded CorporateConnect nor is Mr Davis on the steering committee. Request that Mr Davis' name be removed from any documentation. • Consensus that CorporateConnect AB be approached directly rather than through any other organisation. • Page 10: Review of Safe Families: Unclear as to what is happening with review and program. 	<p>MOTION: Matters arising from the minutes be accepted.</p> <p>Moved: Mr Allan Cobb Seconded: Mr Norman Hall CARRIED</p> <p>ACTION: Request for a separate action sheet in isolation from minutes. ACTION: Letters to be written to Government and private organisations to encourage them to support their Chairs by paying their wages whilst they attend the meetings. Benefits need to be included. ACTION: Letter to be written back to MS Biles that MPRA will not be making any action until it is passed through the local CWP.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AHO has started to attend some of the issues in Ivanhoe. • All issues should be directed through AHO. • Mr Stacey is unlikely to return as NSW State Manager position is being advertised. • Concern raised that there is not clarity on whether the issues that are raised by MPRA are being actioned. The fight needs to be brought to them to deliver what is needed. Without the MPRA there is no other vehicle to fight for the rights of Aboriginal people. Wrong that our planning is not being followed through. • MPRA has accountability and advocacy role and the ability to pull together the parties that can provide the outcome. • We are talking but don't hear a lot of listening – or at least very little action from our talking. We still don't have airconditioning/cooling on half our properties. • Census: Aboriginal census was better handled than the non-Aboriginal census side in Collarenebri 	<p>ACTION: Concern expressed that CWP Chairs are not fully aware of the level of SWP in their communities. That there needs to be more consultation with CWPs as most chairs are unaware of the SWP program. Letter to be written to Steering Committee to address these issues.</p>
<p>3. FaHCSIA/AANSW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark of respect that new Secretary Mr Finn is touring western NSW in September • Negotiation of RPA essential that it is a frank but doable conversation • Not possible to do everything – need direction as to where focus should be • MPRA: Priorities have been put out there but not picked up – we need direction as to what Government is capable of funding • FaHCSIA will be capable of working this way and that this is purpose of consultation • All CPOs have mapped what has been accomplished and what hasn't - the next stage is to identify new strategies and what are each communities priorities • Concern expressed at definition of remoteness • Language of RPA around UN declaration Government is comfortable with • Holding to account for how money is spent will be a focus of FaHCSIA • More funding has been secured for Young Leaders program to continue • Issue of Young Leaders project of \$3,000 per community still has to be resolved but will be resolved by end of year • Family values/culture are a critical way forward • Role of CPOs is not clear, and do not meet the needs of the community – they should be ensuring projects are moving forward eg Young Leaders community projects • AANSW taken on board that CPOs are not progressing projects – focus has been on getting CWPs recognised because of changing political support • Recognition is critical to ensuring that CWPs receive the respect that they deserve for the processes that they 	<p>ACTION: State Mgr DEEWR and Centrelink to be invited to next meeting.</p>

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<p>have employed to be representative of their communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loyalty of CPOs is to the community • Pleased with CPOs engagement of services to work with CWP's but would prefer to see them spending more time in the community and driving projects through. • Value in having Local Government signatories to the RPA. • Benefits need to be determined for Local Government that would have them be signatories. Discussion would need to be held before changes in signatories to RPA made • Need for Local Government and CWP to have a service level agreement to provide an equal footing • Lack of Aboriginal employment in some Councils • Councils have been investigating Council Governance and are producing a paper which MPRA needs to respond to • Identified councillors may be a way forward • FaHCSIA's focus for RPA will be the seven building blocks one of which is Leadership and Governance • The issue of people who own properties and whose circumstances have changed like the elderly and miners camps who need access to funding to maintain their homes. • Housing for Health addressed these issues but not for home owners. Means testing should be a way forward. • CAP plans in some Councils will be taken up in their Social Plans • Mr Christian apologises for not being able to attend as he has a spiral fracture of his left leg • RPA: Early October have a meeting with key government agencies and Mr Jeffries to thrash through some of the issues. Keen to get it right. • Will workshop tomorrow and show rough draft • Opportunity to have further meetings in November to tighten RPA • Tour of all Partnership Communities: Visiting all 40 communities to define how well framework has been working and to finalise framework • Task Force: Members of the task force were read out. Noel Pearson will be invited to provide advice to the task force on certain areas. First meeting on the 15th September. • NSW Government needs to understand the CWP structure is not a political structure but a self-generated structure. • ACDP: 3 houses in Dareton will be completed by end of November. Menindee will be completed by end of December • Murray Darling Plan: Plan discussed • Question raised whether Task Force has power to override the RPA – will need management but Task Force is 	<p>ACTION: Letter sent to congratulate them but disappointed that they have not sought key advice from the NSW communities.</p>

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<p>very specific</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question raised around inclusion of LALCs in RPA like Northern Rivers – will need exploration but different as Northern Rivers does not have CWP structure • Opportunity for LALCs to manage funds for regional projects if they are included • Paid position for Acting Chair will continue to end of September. • From an ICC perspective – priorities are 1: Development of RPA; 2: CDEP and ongoing arrangements across the region; 3: Work of Engagement officers in communities • The length of time taken for the road show to reach communities and the time for responses is too short • No movement in employment – JSAs do not seem to be capitalising on employment opportunities - we need someone from DEEWR to attend MPRA and explain role and function of JSAs • JSAs are the only ones benefiting from the IEP program • Consultation process criticised as CWPs were unaware of consultations • Concern expressed at current arrangements for CDEP • Bourke Office: First offer made to ILC and negotiations are progressing on this. Repairs will need to be made and will be purchased in trust for MPRA. EOIs will be sought for local organisation management. 	<p>ACTION: Mr Hill to come back at next meeting with information regarding CDEP and their CAP plans.</p>
<p>4. MPREC/MPRH/MAARI MA SUPPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owing to MPREC having its Board meeting this item will be held at next MPRA meeting 	<p>ACTION: Sam to develop framework for next meeting</p>
<p>5. AANSW REPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subgroups: MPRA needs to have discussion around what chair sits on subgroups as budget can only allow one chair per subgroup (now four) • Conflict of interest needs to be managed if you are on a subgroup as a chair • Little traction from Cobar mines – but Dubbo / Parkes there is considerable interest in the compact • MOU can be entered into with the mining industry that identifies a percentage of indigenous employment • Aboriginal self-identification project: Aims to have front line agency workers ensure that they respectfully identify all Aboriginal clients to ensure that we have the most accurate stats • Tourist trail: Roundtable in late November with planning sessions to commence in February • Construction Project: Project has captured good information which will inform Public Works as construction projects arise in the MP region. • Community Engagement Toolkit: Has been released and will be very useful in the development of the CAP plans as it focuses engagement and prioritisation. • River mudmap: Value in linking tourism projects along the river. Draft strategy to be developed • Much discussion held on employment strategies that go beyond “market gardening” 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mining and wool industry are two industries that can be encouraged to take up indigenous employment • Cultural icons such as roo and emu meat is an opportunity for communities that should be included in their CAP plans • Food security could be the next step for communities to develop employment opportunities • Need to get our business heads on • UN Declaration: Principles of United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous People were worked through • Draft RPA: UN principles reflected in draft • UNDRIP reflected in draft RPA as are the seven building blocks • Concern raised about what is the meat on the bone for this document – essentially the schedule is the meat on the bone of the RPA reflected in practice and action 	<p>ACTION: Half day workshop next MPRA to work through RPA</p>
<p>5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role as Co-Chair of National Congress had Mr Jeffries participate in the Constitutional Recognition process. • Section 25 of Constitution can allow State Governments to prevent First peoples from voting, allows for suspension of Antidiscrimination Act and allows for the intervention. • Discriminatory sections of Constitution should be removed as well as developing a new preamble that reflects sovereignty of First Peoples • Queensland Government has used it in the past to prevent Aboriginal people from voting in the Cape as it would have effected and election outcome • 80 consultations have occurred with another 50 consultations still to occur • Public education around this issue is critical as referendum could occur as early as June 2012 • There are large sections of the Australian community who are unaware of the referendum in 1965 that gave First Nation people's rights • National Congress members have been surveyed – 97% said they should be involved in the debate and reflected in involvement of constitutional recognition • Request for constitutional solicitor to be present at future discussions • Concern expressed at the lack of time for proper consultation • Question raised on what are the measures that surround constitutional recognition such as a seat(s) in parliament ie NZ Maori model • Recommendations of panel are most likely to be knocked off before ever goes to referendum as it requires negotiation with opposition to maintain bi-partisan support • Copy for CWP and School - as 16 yo will be voting when it comes to next election 	<p>MOVED: That Mr Jeffries report be accepted</p> <p>Moved: Mr Allan Cobb Seconded: Ms Fay Johnstone CARRIED</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GHD report on Green Futures launched on 24th August Mr Jeffries has been asked to join panel by Minister Arbib on Advisory Committee on Housing Assistance Reform. 	
<p>6. GENERAL BUSINESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bourke: Two motions from Bourke – that the chair to come from one of the 16 communities rather than an independent chair. That the auspice of the funds through the BBC should be from another organisation as there is a conflict of interest. Letter will be sent to MPRA on these two motions. Request will be for these two motions to be looked at before next MPRA meeting. If these two issues are not looked at then the Bourke CWP will withdraw from the MPRA. Mr Jeffries response was that the evolution of the MPRA was that ultimately the chair should be elected from within the MPRA. Auspice finishes in January 2012 and then auspice will be open tendered. Government will not agree to change in auspice this late in the RPA. Conflict of interest – if anyone has a gripe or conflict that conflict should be nominated not just a general conflict. Human nature is to nit-pick – recorded that a community is happy with the service from BBC. Independent chair removes the possibility of conflict. Question raised if the two motions are considered by MPRA and are voted on and if vote is negative to Bourke then Bourke will withdraw Concern raised that Bourke could be removed from all benefits of the RPA and that Bourke’s withdrawal undermines the regions governance strength Mr Sullivan expressed his thanks to the MPRA as he will not take on being chair of Bourke CWP ever again Interests need to be declared and risk managed. Minimisation of risk occurs by MPRA not making financial decisions Concern that the full information is not getting to the members of the Bourke CWP 	<p>ACTION: That Declaration of Interest be re-added to agenda.</p>
<p>4. RPA / CAP PLANS</p> <p>Recap and Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subgroups were presented with the Regional Action Plan which derived its priorities and actions from all 16 CAP’s. A regional matrix was developed for the several sections of activity – eg Health, families, Young People, Economic and enterprise development, education, Law and Justice, Culture & heritage etc. From these came the sub groups and they took responsibility for actioning the regional matrix. Health and Education had workshops with the MPRA and CWP members to refine their actions further, otherwise sub groups continued to action the work. <p>Current work to update CWP’s and MPRA</p>	<p>ACTION: Ms Palmer to investigate why Dareton/Wentworth is not included</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All subgroups have provided a status against each action which will be collated and provided to each CWP. • Simultaneously, CPO's are working with CWP's to review the CAP's. • The two processes will be aligned and assessments made on which actions have not been completed and whether they are a priority. If they are, they will be included in the revised CAP. • Subgroups recognise that communication must be improved, therefore two meetings with MPRA and sub group Chairs (or whole sub groups) will occur per year. • Figures tabled as below: <p><u>As at September 5th 2011, the following applies for the Employment, Training, Education and economic Development (ETEED) sub group :</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">No. of Actions:</td> <td style="width: 10%;">23</td> <td style="width: 75%;">Economic Development</td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>174</td> <td>Employment & Enterprise</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>170</td> <td>Education</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>=367</td> <td>Actions for ETEED</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr><td colspan="4"> </td></tr> <tr> <td>No. of responses:</td> <td>5</td> <td>Economic Development</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>37</td> <td>Employment & Enterprise</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>145</td> <td>Education</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>=187</td> <td>Responded Actions</td> <td>Responded actions</td> </tr> <tr><td colspan="4"> </td></tr> <tr> <td>No. of nil responses:</td> <td>19</td> <td>Economic Development</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>127</td> <td>Employment & Enterprise</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>21</td> <td>Education</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>=167</td> <td>Nil responses</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr><td colspan="4"> </td></tr> <tr> <td>Unable to deliver</td> <td>0</td> <td>Economic Development</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>10</td> <td>Employment & Enterprise</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>4</td> <td>Education</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>=11</td> <td>unable to deliver</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr><td colspan="4"> </td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"><u>As at September 5th 2011, the following applies for the Health, Families and Young People (HFYP) sub group</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>No. of Actions:</td> <td>128</td> <td>Health</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>67</td> <td>Young People</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>31</td> <td>Families</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>40</td> <td>Law & Justice</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>=266</td> <td>Actions for HFYP</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	No. of Actions:	23	Economic Development			174	Employment & Enterprise			170	Education			=367	Actions for ETEED						No. of responses:	5	Economic Development			37	Employment & Enterprise			145	Education			=187	Responded Actions	Responded actions					No. of nil responses:	19	Economic Development			127	Employment & Enterprise			21	Education			=167	Nil responses						Unable to deliver	0	Economic Development			10	Employment & Enterprise			4	Education			=11	unable to deliver						<u>As at September 5th 2011, the following applies for the Health, Families and Young People (HFYP) sub group</u>				No. of Actions:	128	Health			67	Young People			31	Families			40	Law & Justice			=266	Actions for HFYP	
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<p>Future Work and Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brewarrina is currently without a CPO and therefore no movement forward in this area. MPRA asked for this issue to be resolved as a matter of priority • Dareton/Wentworth and Coonamble appears to have been left off some of the subgroup data tables. • Question was raised as to what happens when the strategy is correct but don't get buy-in from the lead agency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ms Palmer advised that Mr Christian has committed to getting buy-in at the CEO level and Mr Ross O'Shea Dept of Premier and Cabinet with Mr Scott Griffiths, Chair of the Regional Managers Network and Regional Executive Director of FaCS will ensure signoff/buy-in from Regional Directors and Managers. Office of Aboriginal Affairs (OAA) will regionally and at state level be responsible for engagement of state government agencies, whilst FaHCSIA will ensure Commonwealth Agency buy in. • Concern expressed that birthing is occurring outside of country and place of birth is not where they reside or where they identify with. Suggestion that MPRA provide a paper to the Registry / Attorney general's looking at solutions whereby Aboriginal people get birth certificates, have their births recorded and also have capacity to put their country to signify country of origin and Aboriginality associated with place. • New Community Action Plans (CAP's) will have a specified format, focussing on Results Based Accountability Framework. The headings are (see attached example): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Result – what the CWP want to achieve; 	<p>ACTION: OAA to address CPO in Brewarrina immediately</p> <p>ACTION: Dareton/Wentworth on data tables to be resolved by Ms Palmer</p> <p>ACTION: Work with Register of Births, Deaths and Marriages to allow for country to be part of Birth Certificate, and to include declaration of Aboriginality</p> <p>ACTION: Include framework in next minutes</p>																														

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Objective – why is this important ○ Strategies – what can be done ○ Responsibility ○ Timeline ○ Building Block. <p>Agreements and considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed to focus on Results and Objectives and provide this for the Regional Action Plan. Oct end is the target date for this piece of work to be completed by. • Agreed that the development of strategies would occur with Agencies present to have conversations about what can and can't be done, look at alternatives etc and get complete buy in from Agencies, and to build relationships between agencies and the CWP's • Agreed that CPO's would be supported within GWA Team with sub group chairs and members assisting the workshopping of CAP's • In new CAP's focus on three key results that are a priority for investment of energy and resources and that can be accomplished in the next 2-3 years. Add additional results as previous results are completed • Strategies that cater for Elders, families, men, women, young people are critical • Aspirational objectives are important to CWPs and may need to be broken down into stages so that Agencies can assist with implementation or support to look elsewhere for aspirations to be realised. • Regional strategies that affect all Aboriginal people must be addressed by MPRA such as education, housing, land access, food security, standards of living, mining, tourism. • Has to be capacity for MPRA to develop it's own regional priorities for the Regional Plan as well. • RA Membership on Sub group as below, to be reviewed in 6 months: <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Health Families Young People</td> <td style="width: 50%;">HFYP: Coonamble, Gular, Menindee, Ivanhoe</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education Training Employment Economic Development</td> <td>ETEED: Bre, Weil, LR, Goodooga</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environmental Health & Housing</td> <td>EnvHH: Wentworth, Walgett, Cobar, Wilcannia</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Culture heritage and Environment</td> <td>CHE: Enngonia, Bourke, Broken Hill, Collie</td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement that CPO's "belonging" to these communities will be represented on the sub groups so as to assist Assembly representatives with paperwork, travel, communications and actions • Discussion if sub groups should meet the day before the MPRA meetings in Cobar. • Suggest that EnvHH and ETEED to meet simultaneously in the morning, HFYP and CHE meet simultaneously in the afternoon. 	Health Families Young People	HFYP: Coonamble, Gular, Menindee, Ivanhoe	Education Training Employment Economic Development	ETEED: Bre, Weil, LR, Goodooga	Environmental Health & Housing	EnvHH: Wentworth, Walgett, Cobar, Wilcannia	Culture heritage and Environment	CHE: Enngonia, Bourke, Broken Hill, Collie	<p>ACTION: Ms Palmer & Mr Hill to check with subgroups and organise to meet prior to next MPRA meeting</p>
Health Families Young People	HFYP: Coonamble, Gular, Menindee, Ivanhoe								
Education Training Employment Economic Development	ETEED: Bre, Weil, LR, Goodooga								
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Issue & Discussion	Action
<p>11. WOBBLY HUB AND DOUBLE SPOKES PROJECT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four year research project focused on access to therapy services for people with disabilities • Aboriginal policies have also been reviewed including therapy policies • Project reviews government funded therapists, non-government and NSW Health therapists – 120 people in consultations • Spoken to 75 carers and now speaking with people with disabilities themselves • MPRA: Hard to engage O/T s to work with people who have strokes etc, but worst piece is the delays in putting in ramps, safety rails etc which should be implemented whilst person with disability is in hospital • Project needs to engage with Housing providers (who may also be outside of region) – speak with AHO • Foetal alcohol syndrome fits this project but chronic alcoholism fits into health rather than ADHC • Broken Hill – needs another worker as assessments are taking too long given the case load of the single worker • Looking at traditional medicine as part of overall solution as is land and language • Cultural activity as part of the therapy process would be therapeutic to Aboriginal clients • Silo mentality is the worrying issue • Earlier intervention in process for children • Stability of education is important in process • Question asked if there was any research of compounding medical problems which could have been intervened with through therapy • Inclusion of parents in therapy decisions • Need for Aboriginal people to be trained in in home respite care that is culturally appropriate. Out of home respite care and the knowledge of is important • Concern expressed at siloing preventing people with disabilities access to expert therapy • Lack of information regarding what services are available and in what location needs to be part of project • Coordination and collaboration will be the key to the success of this project • Interested in getting six monthly updates from Ms Dew in order that we can apply pressure to changing policy that impacts service delivery – request for her to be on agenda every six months. 	
<p>Congratulations to Mr Des Jones for his election to the NSW State Land Council</p>	
<p>12. RPA STATUS REPORT Financial report tabled.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern raised around boundaries – Coonamble fits into different areas for different services and the footprint of MP gets lost • Consideration to be given to recognising Aboriginal returned servicemen and these funds funding wreaths etc. 	<p>MOTION: That we only pay for MPRA business and not corporate business. Moved: Mr Ted Fernando Seconded: Ms Fay Johnson CARRIED</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern raised around the whole corporate issue – MPRA should only be involved in whole of MP region activities – if corporates are working with individual communities then that is each community’s business not MPRA business. • The opportunity shouldn’t be missed to work with corporates 	<p>ACTION: Mr Palmer to go back to AANSW and ask for those communities that haven’t spent their funds could they spend it on other community activities / promotional materials</p> <p>ACTION: Mr Jeffries to meet as a matter of urgency with CorporateConnect AB to sort out the confusion that exists.</p> <p>ACTION: Mr Palmer to provide copy of budget and explanatory notes (NAIDOC, Subgroup Meetings, Health Forum) to be sent to every chair.</p>
<p>10. COMMUNITY/REGIONAL GOVERNANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model of community governance takes on different forms and MPRA is one of the best examples. • Decision making process is accompanied by a charter of governance • Values and principles underpin the governance process • Ethics need to remain in place in order that the credibility of the MPRA is maintained • Must have ability to defend what we do • Strength is in numbers and it’s not about money or holding the cheque book • Good governance is what we are – we can improve particularly if we are resourced to do so such as access to secretariat that can provide discussion papers • Taken 17 years to build up this model • It is not always easy to have Aboriginal people to always turn up to CWP meetings • Maybe this is the time to relook at the Code of Conduct and the Charter to see if they still meet the needs of MPRA governance • Potential Governance structure tabled: Communities & People > CWP > MPRA ^ MAYLP v NSWALC Councillors > AECG > Billa Muji > AbSec>? • History given of how MPRA came into existence and its strength in NOT being embedded in a corporate arrangement • The question to be asked is should or shouldn’t the membership be increased by pulling in the peaks AECG, Billa Muji, AbSec and SNAICC • This would take Assembly to 24 people – issue of whether peaks have voting rights is an issue for the MPRA to resolve 	<p>MOVED: That the MPRA retain its existing structure of an independent chair, 16 community chairs, 4 representatives from MPAYLP and the 3 regional NSWALC Councillor with relationships being established with the peak bodies – AECG, ALS, Billa Muji / AH&MRC, AbSec and SNAICC.</p> <p>Moved: Ms Maureen O’Donnell Seconded Mr Ted Fernando CARRIED</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question asked should we involve Aboriginal Legal Service, and AH&MRC direct • Question asked should Young Leaders come through the ranks • Proposed that peaks are ex-officio members • Requirement for fully fledged secretariat that performs executive function for MPRA • Possibly an incorporated arm to manage secretariat funds although not everyone agrees • Proposed that 16 chairs have voting rights, everyone else ex-officio and that secretariat be tendered out • Incorporating means who is Board of body, annual reports and meetings etc. • Consensus that peaks would be useful as ex-officio members – may not attend complete meeting but invited for specific input • Care to be taken that advice from peaks does not over-ride the decision making of the MPRA • Peaks place should be at sub-group level and be stakeholders only • Schedule peaks participation into MPRA meetings • ALS – Government has changed system to a system not wanted by current providers 	<p>MOVED: That BBC be retained as the auspice body for the MPRA RPA until the end of the contract (29th January 2012)</p> <p>Moved: Mr Ted Fernando Seconded: Mr Norman Hall CARRIED</p> <p>(Interests declared by Mr Palmer and Ms Barker who left the room for the discussion and motion)</p> <p>NOTED: Mr Ferguson to be commended for his role as chairperson for the duration of Mr Jeffries absence and should be congratulated.</p>
<p>3. INWARD-OUTWARD CORRESPONDENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GHD Green Futures report contained in booklet and launched by Minister Arbib • ACTION: Write letters to CWP to provide list of language teachers/programs across the region • ACTION: Letters to MPREC, MPRH and Maari Ma to be re-issued for next meeting 	<p>MOVED: That correspondence be accepted Moved: Mr Allan Cobb Seconded: Mr Norman Hall CARRIED</p>
<p>4. GENERAL BUSINESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Housing Rent: Issue needs to be raised at an AHO forum that rent can be up to \$230 per house when houses are sub-standard. • AHO is seeking Board members and chair to provide AHO policy • Lack of consultation with communities re: R&Ms, spot purchases etc • Much discussion around the dissatisfaction of communities with AHO's performance • R&Ms are occurring in occupied houses and families are often left without toilet, shower facilities as R&Ms are undertaken • Percentage Aboriginal employment but not including local people in employment strategy • No learning from previous experiences • Men's Conference: Was a great meeting, was full but a number of men pulled out just before the conference. Men's Shed asked for delegates – Mr Allan Cobb voted in as the delegate for Murdi Paaki. Men's Group or Men's Shed are required to occupy men's time especially men coming out of jail. Men's Shed are trying to identify why Aboriginal men are not accessing Men's Shed – appears to be an issue of not having ownership. 	<p>ACTION: Letter to be written to ask Mr Simon to conduct another forum to address these issues and clarify the position</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coonamble has two men’s sheds but are not accessed by Aboriginal people. Through AMS Men’s Group established which has/is undertaking cultural camps with men and boys • Wentworth/Dareton: Housing is an issue but it is not getting resolved • Menindee: Black pride night – had story on stolen generation. Kids acted it out beautifully. Menindee has had Black Pride night for five years as part of NAIDOC. Under 17s won regional competition • Enngonia: No issues • Collarenebri: Same old same old, about to sit down with CPO to review CAP plan. Richard and Elaine will work with community until new CPO appointed. ACTION: Mr Jeffries to take back to Mr Christian as an issue. School would like feedback on the Collie kids video. The National Congress launch included a mention of the Collie kids in the opening address. Community Hall to be handed back to the Community – still issues with NSWALC and FaHCSIA to resolve before it comes back to community. FaHCSIA has a caveat on the Hall – ACTION: Mr Jeffries to discuss with Ms Bruce. Four attended photograph exhibition of carved trees in Sydney and have since been sent very large photographic prints of trees for display in the community. Still intending that trees be returned to Collarenebri. • Lightning Ridge: Wearing three hats – Chair of LRG, Chair of LALC and chair of CWP. Mr Cobb congratulated the BBC on winning the tender for the Child and Family Centre. C&FC will be located on LALC land and is currently passing through Native Title. Have met with DoCS and the Indigenous Design Unit – three meetings where style and number of rooms have been defined. Once native title settled DA will then proceed for Walgett Shire Council’s approval. Four major blocks have been submitted for Native Title transfer. Major structures going into LR – community centre, dementia centre, National Opal Musuem etc – 9 in total over the next four years including the Child & Family Centre. Council’s plan has been provided to LALC and CWP for comment. Should know outcome of Native Title claim within three weeks. Having difficulty getting CWP together to go through CAP plan - working to do it through lunch hours. Not addressing young men through cultural activity – needs to be our focus to keep them safe. • Gulargambone: Working on CAP plan – removing complete strategies and looking at strategies still to go. Narromine LALC is contacting nine LALCs in Central Region to combine housing stock and move against AHO initiative. Young leaders have been raising money to put in a skate park. Their bike track is almost complete. Activities include junk sales. River Walk opens today – walk has been created by CDEP. • Coonamble: Crime rate has been high but is now reducing after the formation of a couple of committees specifically designed to address the issue. Rates have dropped in by 40%. Disclosures are being made on who is dealing in town. AECG running very well – all need to be working on improving education for Aboriginal children. Suspensions are not working for our children – MPRA needs to look at Menindee model to see what is working and not for application in other communities. 	<p>ACTION: Letter to be written from MPRA regarding comments made at Local Government Forum in support of comments made.</p>

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<p>Men's group going really well – 23 on Yabby trip – trying to get youg men involved with family and avoiding DV – encouraging father/son relationships. Have Men's Shed but Aboriginal men are not using it.</p> <p>CWP going ahead in leaps and bounds – particularly around engagement with service providers. Need to go to next step – concern that CPO may not have time to adequately service community if having to take on workload of other communities. Concern expressed at the incarceration and recidivism of Aboriginal people into jail – and programs such as Circle Sentencing do not appear to be working as they should. Victorian Koori Court model should be looked at.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ivanhoe: First Young Leader attended conference in Dubbo and thoroughly enjoyed it. CAP plan is being worked on and took two days to complete. Youth Committee now formed – Transfield have supplied equipment they will leave behind when they leave Ivanhoe. Have won grant for Landcare • Brewarrina: Sad what's happening in Brewarrina as it appears that its personal. Blatant allegations are being made and need evidence – Government needs to hold complainers to account to provide evidence before they act. Require Governance training so that everyone knows what conflict of interest/pecuniary interest – MPRA is currently way off line with this. PARRS registration – due to be looked at again in February. Not receiving a single dollar from AHO even though they have caveats on properties. 28 positions in both Child and Family Centres. Housing NSW having difficulty obtaining land for new Women's Safe House due to conflict in community. DoCS restructuring services in Brewarrina with the intent that Child Safe Haven, Youth Centre and Safe House are jointly managed and manned. Need for intervention in situation in Bre whether its mediation or whatever as the community is suffering from the disputes. • Bourke: CJC training is available for all communities. Frustration of Bourke CWP led to two motions. Mr Ferguson excused himself from vote in Bourke. Mr Ferguson requests time at next meeting to discuss issues that affected him whilst chair – still don't have an effective communications strategy and need for better planning processes to more effectively engage Government. Mr Ferguson's secondment has been extended to develop framework for land and water management • Chair: Yesterday's session did look at history of the Assembly and its current and possible new structures. Went through exercise to address Bourke's concerns. MPRA's decision was to retain existing structure. Also looked at including peak bodies which was declined however with a formal partnership being established. Auspicing arrangement wasn't entertained as only five months for auspice arrangement to complete as would be too difficult to replace. Bourke: Motion from Bourke actually was vote of no confidence in BBC as auspice for MPRA. • Concern expressed that benefit is being obtained by individual communities • Raised what engagement do Chairs have in subgroups? 	<p>ACTION: CWP requests a copy of the investigation report conducted by AANSW and FaHCSIA into the BBC</p> <p>ACTION: Time to be allocated at next meeting for Natural Resource Management conversation. Mr Ferguson has seen where gaps are – in position to assist in process of planning</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two motions were tabled at Bourke - at this point there is no motion to withdraw unless there is some change in the way things are done. • Fairness and reasonableness has not been offered to the Business Centre as no conversation has been held with the BBC nor any evidence provided. • New RPA negotiation includes the development of a proper communication strategy. This is a fragile entity as it doesn't have the human and financial resources to do what is needed to be done. • Solution could be that Bourke has its funds auspiced by another organisation. • Questioned whether it's MPRA's role to contact order as this is operational and then the issues surrounding the SWP. Question is then what is MPRA role – thought that local issues get resolved at the local level first before coming to the MPRA. 	<p>ACTION: To be included on agenda at next meeting.</p>
<p>15. MS KATE BAXTER, DIRECTOR, WESTERN INSTITUTE OF TAFE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern raised that courses are not designed for elders who feel stupid in a normal classroom setting • TAFE to look at developing an Elders Technology Course which includes a lot of technology such as video conferencing, bank cards etc • Numbers are not the issue anymore for TAFE given new technology • Interviewing and selling themselves for a job is a critical issue for Aboriginal people (iPROWD mechanism could assist in this process) • Increasing engagement of Aboriginal people into the faculty in various roles including tutoring • Demands for flexible training to skill Aboriginal organisations such drug and alcohol organisations and child care centres • Have programs for governance and for training Aboriginal people to become Local Government Councillors • What is the need for tourism and hospitality and the new green economy • Green skills are going to impact existing jobs as well as those being trained • Shortage of skills in hospitality particularly because of churn effect and casual nature of business • Question raised could TAFE provide conflict of interest training for MPRA. MPRA asked to develop content and provide to TAFE for course design. • TAFE has unit to encourage Aboriginal people to become Councillors which trains them in what it is to be a Local Government Councillor • TAFE is making every effort to engage and assist Aboriginal people to further their education 	<p>TAKE IN PRESENTATION</p>
<p>8. GENERAL BUSINESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to improve the way we do business – there should be no barrier anymore to moving forward • No instrument to measure our effectiveness 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RPA requires data and evaluation to see how we are progressing• Privileged to have a mechanism such as MPRA - believe that we are that far ahead of other regions	
NEXT MEETING: 21-25 November, 2011 – Cobar Bowling and Golf Club	

