

## MINUTES OF THE 45<sup>th</sup> MURDI PAAKI REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

HELD ON 11-13 June 2013 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 Ms Cheryl Johnstone, Menindee Community Working Party Mr Allan Cobb, Lightning Ridge Community Working Party Ms Jeanette Barker, Mr Jason Ford Brewarrina Community Working Party Ms Maureen O'Donnell, Broken Hill Community Working Party Ms Joan Evans, Cobar Community Working Party Mr Alistair Ferguson, Bourke Community Working Party Mr William Johnson, Wentworth/Dareton Community Working Party Ms Virginia Robinson, Ms Annette Kennedy, Walgett Community Working Party Ms M Gibbs, Goodooga Community Working Party Ms Faye Johnstone, Ivanhoe Community Working Party
Guests	Mr Jason Ardler, CEO AANSW Mr Leonard Hill, Manager, ICC Dubbo (Tuesday, Wednesday) Ms Carolyn Duncan, NSW Community Services Ms Louise Bye, Deputy State Manager FaHCSIA (Tuesday, Wednesday) Ms Tracey Shillingsworth, Regional Director OAA Ms Janelle Whitehead, MPREC Mr James Christian, NSW State Manager FaHCSIA Mr Andrew Bell, Deputy Manager Western ICC (Tuesday)
Apologies	Clr Des Jones, NSW ALC MOVED: That apologies be accepted Moved: A Cobb Seconded: N Hall Carried
Chair of the Meeting	Mr Sam Jeffries
Minutes Taken By	Ms Carole Medcalf, Brewarrina Business Centre (Secretariat Support)

## Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly meeting, Cobar 11-13 June 2013

Issue & Discussion	Action
<p><b>Tuesday 11 June 2013 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></p>	<p>MOVED: That the Agenda is agreed. Moved: A Cobb Seconded: F Johnstone CARRIED</p>
<p><b>2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b> Alan Cobb NW Land Council</p>	
<p><b>3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faye Johnstone was present at last meeting, noted her attendance has been missed for last two meetings. Apologies from Secretariat. Attendance sheets have been re-introduced.</li> <li>• Chair has tried to get in touch with Nestle contact regarding Goodooga, on a number of occasions but has been unable to do so. Will check contact details are still relevant and try again.</li> <li>• Young leaders – meeting with young leaders and MPREC to clarify current situation and expenditure of \$20,000 prize money. Youth Aboriginal Council to be supported by prize money. In addition working on a youth forum, potentially in conjunction with September Assembly.</li> <li>• RPA- working on clarifying what level of influence the Assembly will have under the RPA on funding and that State and Federal Govt commitment is not just about ticking boxes but also about ensuring real negotiations are undertaken.</li> <li>• BBC to provide a budget outline for CWPs after IT expenditure is taken into consideration.</li> <li>• Letter of support still to be written for Bourke CWP</li> <li>• Communications strategy – can't be communicated because they can't be contacted! Chair and BBC to follow up.</li> <li>• Inclusion of Euston some discussions have been held, communications strategy would help in this and other similar situations. Discussions to continue.</li> <li>• Community development Program funds - \$260 million available nationally under RJCP. Unclear whether it only applies to RJCP areas, to be clarified tomorrow when FahCSIA attends.</li> <li>• MPREC to clarify the funding processes and availability of programs also attending tomorrow.</li> </ul>	<p>MOTION: That minutes be accepted Moved: A Cobb Seconded: J Barker CARRIED</p> <p>Action: BBC to forward a budget outline to all CWP's once financials are ready. Letter of support for Bourke CWP to be written.</p> <p>Action: Chair and BBC to follow up on communications strategy.</p>
<p><b>4. INWARD/OUTWARD CORRESPONDENCE</b></p>	<p>MOVED:That</p>

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<p>As presented in Agenda. Question regarding any response from NSWALC following letter of support. Chair received response- emailed Ta.</p>	<p>correspondence be accepted Moved: J Barker Seconded: J Evans CARRIED</p>
<p><b>5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</b> Apologies from Chair- report left in Broken Hill to be tables at next meeting but verbal given. NAIDOC Ball in Broken Hill event was very successful, also supported by NSWALC. NGO Forum held in Bourke, lot of govt services attended, which was commented on by NGO's as being a deterrent for open discussion (possibly).Some NGO's clearly still did not understand engagement processes that the Assembly would like to see put into practice. Survey feedback preliminary results indicate that NGOs would like future forums to restrict govt attendee numbers. There were 105 attendees and expect about 40 surveys by the time organisations are sorted by response. Assembly view that CAP priorities should be part of funding process and then part of KPI's for organisations. Met with Russell Patterson – advisor to Nigel Scullion (likely to be the next Aboriginal Affairs Minister who wants to visit Bre and Bourke. Supportive of MPRA. RPA – continuing to chase signatures, Federal funding has been released. Looking at mining industry, skills audits and anticipated requirements over next 10 years for future employment with regional mines, for communities. Communications with the New England group who are working with mining industry in their region. Possibility to work with them regarding impact of mining on existing services in small towns, what opportunities exist eg small business.</p>	<p>MOTION: That Chairman's report be accepted and endorsed. Moved: A Cobb Seconded: F Johnstone CARRIED</p> <p>Standing agenda items – FaHCSIA, OAA, Young Leaders and FWML.</p>
<p><b>6. Local Government Discussion – Chair and BBC secretariat</b> In response to issues/ questions raised by Independent Review Panel paper, the Assembly needs to determine its position vis a vis the proposed authority. Questions include how designated positions would be determined, what does a representative have authority to speak about, what don't they have authority for, are the issues clear eg decision making processes, management of public lands cultural protocols.  Assembly delegates support designated Aboriginal positions on the authority, to be nominated by the Assembly and if the NSWALC also has nominated positions then to be determined by them. If the designated seats are designated Aboriginal positions (not organisational positions) then they should be elected by the general rules of elections.i.e all voters to vote.  Discussion held over until after the presentation by next speaker.</p>	
<p><b>7. Tracey Shillingsworth, Regional Director Western OAA</b> Ochre- Jason Ardler to present more details tomorrow. Priority for the region for the next 6 months will be governance processes for each CWP. OAA team will support CWP's. NGO forum in Bourke was successful with good attendance. Report from Consultant to</p>	

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<p>be presented shortly.</p> <p>RPA – implementation groups to commence working shortly. Discussion with hub officers with responsibility for particular groupings-</p> <p>Women’s – Elaine Lang CPO responsible. Currently undertaking an analysis of women’s activities and what assistance/support is needed</p> <p>Men’s- Tracey undertaking the current role until Richard Simpson is replaced.</p> <p>Young people – Tegan Hinchey assigned, consultations to be undertaken with MPREC and project to ensure that young people are involved in MPRA meetings. Support to ensure that happens.</p> <p>Elders – Some communities have functional Elders groups, others don’t. Dept will need to meet with CWP Chairs over the next couple of days with a purpose of uniting communities around these issues. Report backs on progress will be made at each MPRA meeting. Question from delegate re: difference between CAP priorities in community and these identified issues. Response is that each of the groups are affected by CAP priorities and can be addressed in that way. How are Traditional Owner groups</p> <p>RSD will finish in Walgett and Wilcannia June 14, 2013.</p> <p><b>8. LG discussion recommenced</b></p> <p>What can be discussed by the delegates if this is adopted? What can they say on behalf of their constituents? Can discuss most of Local government requirements such as organisational structures, decision making, - areas where they may need to consult could include land management, cultural protocols. Use the Tindale maps and copies of Aboriginal tribal boundaries to determine cultural protocols for consultation ie who needs to be contacted. This would help to identify who has the right to speak about country and associated aspects. Position paper to go from MPRA to LG Review Panel.</p> <p><b>9. Mr Leonard Hill, Manager Western ICC and Ms Louise Bye Deputy State Manager FaHCSIA</b></p> <p>Western Region Indigenous Co-ordination Centre (WRICC) is looking to strengthen its relationship .and engagement with the MPRA and each of the associated communities of the Assembly. We are looking to become more involved in community development aspects of their work. We will give more baseline data about funding provided to each MPRA community with some information on the services which are supposed to be provided for that funding. WRICC wants to work closely with delegates to assist each community to achieve their goals and aspirations expressed through community action plans.</p>	<p>Action: Position paper to go to LG Review Panel.</p>
<p>Meeting Closed at 4.56pm</p>	
<p><b>Wednesday 12 June 2013</b></p> <p>Meeting opened at 9. 00am</p> <p><b>10. Mr Jason Ardler CEO OAA, Mr Mark Conlon Deputy CEO OAA</b></p> <p>Presentation on Ochre.</p> <p>Local decision making processes. Locations will be selected in an urban, regional, remote locations. Advertising will take place from</p>	

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<p>16 July. MPRA will receive information at the same time as everyone else but this is an early indication that these processes are to occur. MPRA already has capacity to influence funding opportunities how is this different? A list of services that are mainstream will have to discuss wider service delivery in housing, local government, education and health. In remote communities very feasible but not so clear in urban environments.</p> <p>Pool funding source could be discussed with communities about allocation of funding. This will be a trial. Is there scope for formally legislating for this process? All models overseas are legislatively based. Currently not based in that way. Need specific directions to get back to previous position under COAG trial.</p> <p>Funding will be Aboriginal specific then there will be mainstream funding as well and be up for discussion. Still to be decided. This is state funding only being discussed. Areas of remoteness are being overlooked because of recategorisation eg Broken Hill. Will tendering processes of NGO's be monitored as well? NGO spending in particular areas will be included. Delegate's view that this needs to be mandatory. Because things are not legislated regarding representation locally in Murdi Paaki region, government and NGO's are not clearly following engagement processes in the western division that government has agreed to but does not have a clear process to follow. Invitation only for the next part of the process. RPA has been agreed by Minister Dominello who has now written to the Federal Minister to finalise the process. Mapping has occurred in the two RSD sites previously so government has accepted the process used previously and that will occur across the region.</p> <p>OAA has identified 5 languages to start working with. Example of how hubs will work. Eg work with one community to engage institution and then move it out to other communities.</p> <p><b>11. Mr James Christian, NSW State Manager, FahCSIA</b></p> <p>FahCSIA is happy to continue its support to CWP's and the Assembly through its support of the Regional Partnership Agreement. Coinciding elections and other govt processes has impacted on implementation of RPA. There are other RPA's in other parts of the country which is a clear indication of federal govt support for these partnerships. Various briefings have been provided to Minister Macklin who continues to support the execution of the Agreement. Still has not been signed but it is anticipated shortly. Once it is signed then discussion will start about how funding will be managed. No problems with how BBC is currently managing but it is a 3 year agreement and it is normal to discuss arrangements at the beginning of a contract. Chair has requested previously that both Ministers attend to sign officially with Assembly to officially launch. Difficulties with impending election are understood. Not likely that will occur due to election. August 14 is caretaker mode so anything will need to occur before then. Possible post election to promote the RPA.</p> <p>Regional Young Leaders program – just over 150 young people have gone through leadership program and is viewed as successful with a major commitment of dollars. Working with DEWAR to see if we can keep the program going. Previous funding has gone through IEP which is impacted through the RJCP changes. This impacts on the communities that are within the RJCP region.</p>	

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<p>RJCP- 59 regions across the country 2 in western region. CDEP participants will transition to RJCP approximately 170 in Qld, Tasmania and NSW once wages and activities are sorted out. MPREC was successful as the single RJCP provider for the area from Goodooga through to Balranald. Single contract is very large and are required to have a local presence. They are required to have a plan for their activities. \$240 million community development fund will be guided by these plans. Project funds have to be submitted this year by 22 June by communities only in the RJCP.</p> <p>1 CAP per region (with 5 communities in each).</p> <p>What can be applied for under the CDF? Capital, resources, training? Things that build community resilience, no recurrent expectation to be developed, no wages components or supervision should come out of the CDF. Participation activities, skills development, transition to work are funded through MPREC under RJCP. \$37.5 million is available nationally for 2013-14.</p> <p>Questions raised regarding exclusion of Broken Hill on the basis of not being remote. Funding to Aboriginal people has been affected negatively but local govt for example still classifies itself as remote as do other govt depts for the purposes of their own staff. Mainstream services are the predominant services provided through FahCSIA not Aboriginal specific services. Targets are now required for service provision, Aboriginal employment strategy and Aboriginal strategies.</p> <p>How do Aboriginal community organisations get support to develop business plans and strategies. DEWAR are the agency with responsibility but there are a range of funding options to support the development of those plans. NSW FahCSIA has over 22% Aboriginal employment which is higher than other regions and looking to increase that.</p> <p><b>12. Ms Janelle Whitehead, CEO MPREC</b> RJCP – Presentation attached in Agenda Booklet.</p> <p><b>13. MPAYLP</b> Presentation attached in booklet.</p> <p><b>14. Meeting Closed at.00pm</b></p>	
<p><b>Thursday 13 June 2013</b></p>	
<p>Meeting opened at 8.43.am</p> <p>15. General Business</p> <p>Report backs from CWP's. Wentworth/Dareton – driving licences are an issue-being able to get them Lack of facilitator. Mine closures and job losses in Cobar as well as some sub contractors. Preliminary discussions around health wanting to have a discussion regarding issues arising. Collarenebri CWP hasn't met for some time. Cemetery project to commence soon. Hoping to have it listed as a heritage site and have toilets and showers put up. LR organising NAIDOC event. Congratulate Dharrilha Elders for their work with school children and their involvement with cultural heritage. BBC has opened and operated an interim centre which is going well. Upgrades to reserves and properties doing sub divisions with a view to looking at home ownership. PCYC van being negotiated. What happens when RSD finishes? In some ways all those communities become experiment sites and always need to keep aware of</p>	<p>Action: Support the development of a resource unit for the MPRA. M J Barker S F Johnstone. Action: Invite Mark Horton to next Assembly meeting to discuss Dubbo Youth</p>

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<p>implications for the end of those programs. State conference is on 24-28 June -30 year anniversary of Land Rights legislation at Cessnock. Celebration dinner with recognition for initial members.</p> <p>16. Netball NSW –Sharon Edmunds, and NSW DSR -Katrina Hausa Just an introduction of the workshops/gala days coming up in each community. Brewarrina is this w/end and Lightning Ridge is coming up on the new courts shortly. Mixed sport –male and female. All sports to be introduced including touch football competition to be supported for the next 3 years. Bowls in Goodooga, LR is netball/touch committee. Walgett is a touch football committee with a group of young men. Coonamble academy is working with young women. Sharon is working across the region. Ronnie Gibbs 7's is for school and community. Businesses can put teams in as well. Dads for kids are going to sponsor the Ronnie Gibbs 7's this year. Dubbo Youth Foundation has grants for Aboriginal people going away for sport and also to play sport up to \$100 per person twice per year. If someone is going away for competition then they can get up to \$300 per person. Dubbo PCYC is the base for Youth Grants but need to check if it applies for school events.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 11.30am.</p>	<p>Foundation.</p> <p>Action: Chair to discuss CWP Chairs absence from workplace – Discuss with Paul Locksley.</p>

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<b>Issue &amp; Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
	MOTION: Moved: J Barker Seconded: C Hooper Carried
<b>NEXT MEETING: September 2013</b>	

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