

MINUTES OF THE 43rd MURDI PAAKI REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

HELD ON 11th – 13th September, 2012 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 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 Ms Joan Dickson, Bourke CWP Mr William Johnson, Wentworth/Dareton Community Working Party Mr George Fernando, Walgett Community Working Party Mr Wayne Reid, Gulargambone Community Working Party Mr Des Jones, NSW Aboriginal Lands Council representative western region
Guests	Mr Steve Butler, Acting Regional Director Murdi Paaki region, AANSW Mr James Christian, NSW State Manager FaHCSIA Mr Jason Ardler, CEO AANSW Mr Richard Weston, Healing Foundation Mr John Nolan, Charles Sturt Univesity Mr Barry Lenihan, Out of Home Care Transition AbSec Ms Janelle Whitehead, MPREC
Apologies	Ms Fay Johnstone, Ivanhoe Community Working Party Mr Tom Briggs, Tamworth LALC Mr Smiley Johnson, Murdi Paaki Housing Ms Christine Hooper, Goodooga CWP Ms jJoan Dickson, Bourke CWP (for Wednesday) Ms Alison Bentick, DEWAR MOVED: That apologies be accepted Moved: A Cobb Seconded: W Reid Carried
Chair of the Meeting	Mr Sam Jeffries
Minutes Taken By	Ms Carole Medcalf, Brewarrina Business Centre (Secretariat Support)

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<p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All members welcomed to this meeting by Mr Sam Jeffries • Also Chris Cottier, BHP, Jessica Jeeves, Mick Dodson representing Reconciliation Australia, observing the Assembly at work. Discussions with delegates and a general discussion during the day. Young Leaders also attending later in the day. 	<p>Melbourne visit for the Awards. Sam and 1 young leader to attend, if no other attendees then Ted Fernando will attend.</p>
<p>Minutes Silence</p>	
<p>1. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA</p>	<p>MOVED: That the Agenda is agreed. Moved: ☐ Seconded: CARRIED</p>
<p>2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST</p> <p>J Evans – Board Cobar Land Council A Cobb BBC Board J Dickson – Project Manager alcohol project Outback Division of General Practice</p>	
<p>3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bourke CWP members were not provided with the resignation of Bourke CWP and regional activity was unclear. Members to attend. • Transfer of building in Bourke has progressed through ILC – EOI for building management to go to 3 organisations nominated by Chairperson. Negotiations underway for tenants to be maintained and for additional tenants to be brought in. • Gambling and alcohol projects in Bourke and Brewarrina can be discussed by Joan Dickson. Update to be provided for next meeting. • Housing providers having difficulties with managing repairs and maintenance – rent increases being flagged but maintenance is slow. Bhill and Wentworth not eligible for same benefits as rest of MP Region. Housing issues outside of remote classification with other individual issues such as tenancy management, overcrowding and rent increases. Boomali Consulting were refused access to the standards during the compilation of the MP Regional Plan. • AEC interested in discussing further the amnesty proposed to encourage more Aboriginal participation in voting across three levels of government. LG elections had Aboriginal candidates across MP region and an additional 36 people registered to vote as well as Aboriginal people volunteering to assist in election. • CPO's not clear about their participation in the development of Community Action Plans (CAPS). CPO's came in at a lesser level than the previous Community Facilitators, jeopardising the capacity of the Dept to develop strategic documents. CPO's were instructed to do the work on CAPs. Hope that CAPS are completed by December which 	<p>MOTION: That minutes be accepted Moved: G Fernando Seconded: N Hall CARRIED</p> <p>ACTION:☐ J Dickson to update Assembly at next meeting. AHO to be asked to present at next meeting</p>

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<p>has impacted on the development of the Assembly's Regional Plan as a result.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulties getting attendance at CWP meetings to participate in the development of CAP. Dept unclear about its role occasionally. • Remote Jobs model has some issues for MP as 8 LGA's are included and 8 are not. To be discussed tomorrow • Economic development and participation in education are only two areas of current agreement with State Govt. Update tomorrow on where the Partnership is up to. • Sub Group meetings in Dubbo are not convenient for all delegates. Needs to be reviewed. 	
<p>4. INWARD/OUTWARD CORRESPONDENCE Fair Loans have visited BBC to organise a hub. Enquiries from across the region about the process – indication that there is support. BBoomalli sign off letter \$1000 per community related to Healthy Families and Communities is available. Collarenebri is the only community to make submission so far.</p>	<p>MOVED: That correspondence be accepted Moved: M O'Donnell Seconded: N Hall CARRIED</p>
<p>5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT Nestle Australia – Meetings in Goodooga, also Wilcannia to discuss provision of pet food and to view the old 'roo works in Brewarrina IBA – to discuss projects in the region and how to assess economic capacity in the MP region Discussion with federal Member Mark Coulton – new employment policy is impacting negatively on people in this region</p> <p>Language in Regional Partnership is base don UN Declaration, providing it lines up with the requirements of the State Plan. Good to line up with international standards. Discussion with Local Government has been positive to the extent that the Assembly has been able to involve them without a document to view. Elections will have an impact on the current understanding of each of the LGA's.</p> <p>Met with Minster Macklin to discuss the impact of Remote Jobs Scheme being applied to only 8 parties of MP Region. Policy creates unemployment in some of the areas in the region. How do we get support for example for young leaders in the region when only 8 CWP's are funded and the other 8 aren't? Once CDEP finishes next year participants are on the dole and below the poverty line. Further discussions undertaken with AIMSC re: regional model. Ombudsmans representative was approached regarding perception that there is influence in the office because of existing relationships. Endeavour to ensure that is not the case. Discussion tomorrow regarding Monitoring and Evaluation of the Plan. State Govt wants to monitor which is a positive thing.</p>	<p>MOTION: That Chairman's report be accepted and endorsed. Moved: J Barker Seconded: W Reid CARRIED</p>

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<p>Fair Loans reviewed abattoir and then held discussions on building new abattoir to process goats – none in NSW all done in QLD and Vic. Approx 50- 70 jobs in total, Aboriginal lands to be used to supply so people involved in land would also benefit. Co-operative to operate so people will have an interest. Also interest in live export of goats to other parts of the world. Discussion on opportunities this may bring to the region. New equipment required to meet current standards. Cowra has RTO which has trained inspectors. Customs overseas also require particular practices to operate.</p> <p>Exemptions for Indigenous Business discussed with FaCSHIA.</p> <p>Priorities in Regional Plan discussed with DAA and FaCSHIA. Plan is our aspiration for the region how that happens is the responsibility of government.</p> <p>MPREC, Northern Star and GHD building company feasibility discussion.</p> <p>Bob Davis discussing vehicle with Secretariat.</p>	
<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconciliation Australia representatives talked to the Assembly about the judging process for the Indigenous Governance awards, Reconciliation Australia that the MPRA is a finalist in. Delegates discussion about the role of the Assembly and the role it has played in the region over the years. 	
<p>7. Young Leaders presentation – Isabel Orcher, Rene (MPREC) Proposal that the 6 young leaders from Youth Advisory Council, take on delegates position on the Forum, 35 young people starting in the program still at the beginnings of the program. Some of the more experienced participants are ready to start mentoring. Public speaking, motivational workshops, self development, career development with Unis and TAFE, governance. Homelessness, health and unemployment. A new Strategic Plan and Operational Plan to be developed by the Advisory Council. Website to be developed and will include a chat room for communication. More engagement between CWP's and the Advisory Council on a more regular basis than just the 4 Assembly meetings. Activities in local communities and this to include CWP Chairs where possible. School holiday visits are made to National Centre for Excellence to promote understanding and knowledge of governance and leadership matters.</p> <p>Assembly aware of impact of IEP program differences. Significance of loss of jobs from the current employment programs.</p> <p>List of Young Leaders participants to be made available. Nominations used to come through CWP currently also coming through the schools. Previously, Young Leaders participants were people who had disengaged from school. Delays in funding processes have impacted on the ability to progress the program. Already seeing young participants wanting to bring their skills and experience back into the region. Young Leaders look at opportunities in local</p>	<p>ACTION: That additional 1 day prior to Assembly starting is added for the Young leaders to attend and discuss issues relevant to them.</p>

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<p>communities and then identify pathways to get there as well as what makes community functional.</p> <p>NCIE facility to be promoted to communities through CWP.</p> <p>Healing Foundation presentation by Richard Weston and Florence Onus – packages distributed.</p> <p>Steve Butler and Tracey Shillingsworth AANSW. Tracey has been appointed to the position of Regional Director – Western Division. Thanks from Steve Butler for support from CWP Chairs during his time as Acting Director. CPO's still working with CWP's but also to be utilised for community projects, to be determined. Ivanhoe will come under Broken Hill because of the placement of staff. Position is being advertised currently. From each of 3 offices BHILL will be under Ivanhoe, Broken Hill, Menindee. Cobar will service Bourke, Brewarrina. Will CPO's be able to spend more time in communities. Lead CPO's but other staff will be able to assist where necessary. CWP Chairs have not as yet been involved in the changes.</p> <p>Ministerial Taskforce consultations have occurred – 38 attended Cobar. The process to finalise the CAPs will continue to be supported by CPO's. Bringing relevant agencies into the mix will occur once Plans are completed and actions identified. Plans to be completed in a realistic timeframe, looks like 3-6 meetings. Unexpended funds may be able to be spent on those meetings.</p> <p>Bourke office to be occupied by AANSW and DET but office for MPRA not connected to IT or phone.</p> <p>Proposals to have duplicate structures from government are opposed by the Regional Assembly. The Assembly is a model that is community driven and is supported across the region by the majority of people in our communities. Functions should not to be duplicated without argument. Mark Conlon to discuss tomorrow. Regional Plan is a Strategic document – action plan to be developed by government. Not possible for government funded programs to make complaints about other government programs that have failed. Important to remember the longevity of the Assembly, its successes and usefulness for Aboriginal people. The Assembly has gained recognition for its work and it should be remembered that some of the dissident people who are looking for alternative models have been excluded because of past behaviours and it should be taken on board.</p> <p>NGO forum is to focus on NGO agencies, service delivery and government requirements and where the Regional Assembly. The benefits for NGO's in using the Assembly for advice, information and how to go about engaging with communities can also benefit local communities. Readiness of NGO's to manage funds is another opportunity that comes from that engagement. National problem so important for Assembly to take initiative.</p> <p>AHO Building standards not able to be accessed by AANSW either.</p>	

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<p>Meeting Closed at 5pm</p>	
<p>Wednesday 12 September 2012 Meeting opened at 9.00am. Chairperson welcomed Mark Conlon (in Jason Ardler's absence) and Ted Fernando</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mark Conlon AANSW – Apologies from Jason Steve Butler has been appointed as a Project Officer to drive RPA with some support staff. Important to have a monitoring and evaluation framework to measure successes of the Assembly. Early to mid November for draft document to review. 2. Assembly would like the Minister/Dept to include anything that they particularly want in a draft to clarify their intention. Minister is interested in what the Assembly particularly wants. That will enable government to line up the common ground with the Assembly. The Plan is to be viewed as a Regional Strategic Plan. The Action Plan is to be developed by government in response. 3. Taskforce report back – Education, Employment and Economic Development are the 3 Terms of Reference for the Taskforce. The Progress Report is a document to say these 3 things are the focus for us at the moment. 4. Opportunity hubs – development from training to employment opportunity dedicated to identifying pathways to employment 5. Language lighthouses – bring language and culture into education for Aboriginal children. Establish Centres for language development and growth 6. Local Decision making – to address service delivery shortfall. Three stage process to be trialled in 3 locations and is currently viewed as a concept which can be opposed if desired. Map current services and priorities, dpac person allocated who can direct priorities once identified by community, 7. Assembly does not make decisions about service delivery currently. What funding is involved in this process is it current health, education, police funding or is it the ad hoc supplementary funding that is allocated? 8. CMA legislation has been identified as 'model' legislation because it is enabling legislation which does not proscribe capacity of communities to make determinations for and on behalf of communities. 9. Concerns about how this policy will impact on current structures and that accountability is already high in Aboriginal services but not so in government service delivery. 10. Discussion between Assembly delegates and AANSW regarding concerns about how the Policy shift may impact on community. Only State Govt – not inclusive of local or federal govt. Letters of support may be 	

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<p>Cobar towards Hillston. Meeting Closed at 4.03pm</p>	
<p>Thursday 13 September 2012</p>	
<p>21. James Christian, State Manager FaHCSIA and Leonard Hill, Manager Dubbo ICC Regional Partnership Agreement- Federal Govt committed to pursuing Agreements particularly the Murdi Paaki Agreement. Minister Macklin committed to seeing progress. Potential of freeing up a position for Executive support for MPRA if funding can't be secured. NSW Govt looking for comment from Land Councils regarding governance structures. Most CWP members and Assembly members are also Land Council members. Coonamble CWP and Lanc Council are discussing MOU with a view to developing improved relationships. NSWALC Chair is also a member of MP Assembly and participated regularly until his appointment limited his available time.</p> <p>Regional Plan has been well received and need to make the implementation occur, perhaps by having key senior government people to discuss the Plan.</p> <p>Remote Jobs Community program- current system has lots of training, few jobs and current agencies aren't working well in remote areas. EOI for Tenders has also been delayed due to some restructuring. Joint information sessions to be undertaken with DEWAR. Single provider for disabilities, job support. Issues for Gulargambone, Coonamble, Collarenebri, Walgett, Ivanhoe – there are 8 areas in Murdi Paaki that are excluded. There are 50 jobs that will be lost by the introduction of this system. Risk management plans to be constructed because loss of jobs is not the aim. Income to areas remains the same or greater, through the EOI process current CDEP providers get sufficient support to participate in EOI process. CDEP providers grandfathered for 3 years nationally for 1670 participants. IEP will be available in non remote jobs areas. Comm Dev fund will be available in remote jobs areas. Youth participation will be funded. IEP will be available for young leaders program. Collarenebri is outside RJCP area and need to know what JSA's are doing in places like Collarenebri. CDEP program around harvesting which needs to be investigated and perhaps developed. No CDEP post June 30 2013. 16 hours work will be a requirement for CDEP participants after that time. Transition funds to be provided for those communities excluded from RJCP and clear plan required.</p> <p>Orana Haven having difficulty securing funds after end of year. There is a demonstrated need for service – no planning or staff recruitment. Unable to continue to take referrals although there is a constant requirement for the support service. Breaking the Cycle has commenced in Bourke and Brewarrina. Questions over the</p>	<p>ACTION: Leonard to follow up with Alison Bentick regarding the JSA activity in Collarenebri.</p> <p>James to follow up with OATSI about current situation and how funding may be secured.</p>

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<p>future of the only rehab facility does not support the Cycle program.</p> <p>Housing- Issues with Build and Grow strategy. So many complaints about the quality of work with little or no response. Federal Govt directs complaints to State because of partnership. At some point the Federal Govt may need to discuss those issues with State Govt. FaHCSIA has raised these issues with AHO, provide reports that indicate they are ahead of targets yet not always reflected in communities. No engagement of local employees.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 1.11pm</p>	

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NEXT MEETING: 26-29 November 2012	

