

**MINUTES OF THE 44<sup>th</sup> MURDI PAAKI REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**HELD ON 12-14 March 2013 at Cobar Bowling & Golf Club, 9.00am - 5.00pm**

<p>MPRA members in Attendance</p>	<p>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          Mr George Fernando, Walgett Community Working Party          Ms Christine Hooper, Goodooga Community Working Party          Mr William Bates, Wilcannia Community Working Party</p>
<p>Guests</p>	<p>Mr Steve Butler, , AANSW          Mr Jason Ardler, CEO AANSW          Ms Glynnis Ingram, FACS          Ms Jemma Cooney, FACS          Mr Ross O'Shea, FACS          Mr Leonard Hill, Manager, ICC Dubbo (Wednesday, Thursday)          Mr Matt Vagulans, Commonwealth Bank of Australia          Ms Carolyn Duncan, Community Services          Ms Louise Bye, Deputy State Manager FaHCSIA (Wednesday, Thursday)          Mr Tim Gattrell, Director Recognise          Mr John Nolan and Ms Maria Bennett, Charles Sturt University          Ms Donna Gudgeon, Ms Emma , Mr Mark , Ms Debbie NSW Department of Fair Trading          Mr Glen Inglis and Mr Wayne Gudgeon Local Government Review Panel          Ms Tracey Shillingsworth, Regional Director OAA          Clr Craig NSWALC          Ms Margo Far West Medicare Local</p>
<p>Apologies</p>	<p>Ms Janelle Whitehead, MPREC          Mr James Christian, NSW State Manager FaHCSIA          Mr Max Sullivan, Enngonia CWP</p>

## Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly meeting, Cobar 12-14 March 2013

	<p>MOVED: That apologies be accepted          Moved: A Cobb          Seconded: G Fernando          Carried</p>
Chair of the Meeting	Mr Sam Jeffries
Minutes Taken By	Ms Carole Medcalf, Brewarrina Business Centre (Secretariat Support)

Issue & Discussion	Action
<p><b>Tuesday 12 March 2013 Welcome</b>            All members welcomed to this meeting by Mr Sam Jeffries            Welcome to Land Council representatives and to Family and Community Services Representatives.</p>	
<p><b>Minutes Silence</b></p>	
<p><b>1. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA</b></p>	<p>MOVED: That the Agenda is agreed.            Moved: J Barker            Seconded: F Johnstone            CARRIED</p>
<p><b>2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b></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, needs to be taken out of apologies, Alistair Ferguson was also present at the last meeting.</li> <li>Chair to follow up with Rene from Nestle regarding Goodooga potential partnership.</li> <li>Discussion regarding the \$20,000 won for the Young Leaders program. The Young Leaders have developed some ideas about ways to spend the prize money to support the development of skills across the MPRA region.</li> <li>Have we raised the issues of implementing solar panels on social housing? Issue has been raised – dependent on government</li> </ul>	<p>MOTION: That minutes be accepted            Moved: A Cobb            Seconded: F Johnstone            CARRIED</p> <p>ACTION: Community Cabinet</p>

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Issue & Discussion	Action
<p>priorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue regarding qualifications of person at Goodooga pre- school – chair to follow up</li> <li>• Broken Hill not eligible for the assistance of other remote areas – need to raise those issues with community Cabinet on 8 April 2013.</li> </ul>	<p>meeting in April – reminder notice to be sent.</p>
<p><b>4. INWARD/OUTWARD CORRESPONDENCE</b> As presented in Agenda</p>	<p>MOVED: That correspondence be accepted Moved: J Barker Seconded: N Hall CARRIED</p>
<p><b>5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</b> As appears in Agenda document. Meeting in Sydney regarding Local Government reforms. Meeting with Advisor to Shadow Minister for Indigenous Affairs.</p>	<p>MOTION: That Chairman's report be accepted and endorsed. Moved: A Ferguson Seconded: J Barker CARRIED</p> <p>Standing agenda items – FaHCSIA, OAA, Young Leaders and FWML.</p>

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Issue & Discussion	Action
<p><b>6. Matt Vagulans, CBA – Communications Strategist for MPRA</b></p> <p>Presentation based on communications paper distributed to meeting. (Attached to Minutes of the meeting) Use of emails to communicate key messages and consistent across CWP's and Assembly Chair to go to community. Refresh of MPRA web site and support for young leaders project. Plan presented to meeting for approval. Local media are one avenue to raise the profile of the MPRA. NSWALC has a media strategy that MPRA may be able to access and share some of its strategies. Young leaders have indicated some areas where they would like to develop skills and Matt will assist them to develop the skills they are seeking. Important to take advantage of social media and use it to the advantage of each community.</p> <p>Need to develop articulated strategy that clearly defines responsibilities for speaking on behalf of the Assembly and the CWP's. Timeliness is important in sending messages. Focus on strategic direction of Assembly and CWP's.</p> <p>Bourke CWP has recently had some negative responses from media outlets and will look at some of the ways that some of those messages can be turned around. Is it possible to have some professional development in dealing with media.</p>	<p>Action: MPRA to adopt the communications strategy put forward by Matt Vagulans            Moved: A Cobb            Seconded: J Barker            Carried.</p> <p>MPRA Chairperson is the spokesperson for the MPRA            Moved: F Johnstone            Seconded: C Hooper            Amended motion            MPRA Chairperson is the spokesperson while media strategy is being developed.</p>
<p><b>7. Glynnis Ingram, FACS</b></p> <p>Glynnis will be moving on after many years in the MP region. Wanted to acknowledge the work of Caroline Duncan in the development of service level agreements across the Murdi Paaki region. Has received frank advice from MPRA on improving the day to day lives of Aboriginal children throughout the region and has appreciated that. Rolling recruitment of staff in these areas across the region which doesn't happen in other areas of the state. Partnerships being developed around out of home care and there are 13 community based services, growing to 17 services in the western region. Need to refresh the partnership agreement and there is a commitment to renew the agreements from FACS. Far west region – Central Darling, Wentworth and Balranald Shires and Unincorporated area. Murrumbidgee district covers Murrumbidgee health area and western covers the western health area. Look at governance in the department in each of those areas with a view to design governance needs costed for future requirements. Current service agreements focus on child protection and out of home care. Priorities may have changed and the Assembly will need to discuss whether these are still priorities or others need to be included. Devolution of responsibility for out of home care to NGO's needs to include engagement with MPRA by NGO's as that is currently not occurring in the same way as government has engaged with MPRA. Leadership structure in the region needs to be developed. Decision making and authority should reflect the requirements of the community i.e. government need to consider the level of authority appropriate to discuss community requirements with community leaders.</p> <p>Chair expressed thanks of the MPRA to Glynnis for her support and work with the MPRA and expressed hope that paths will cross again.</p> <p><b>8. Maria Bennett and John Nolan, CSU – presentation (attached to Minutes).</b></p>	

## Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly meeting, Cobar 12-14 March 2013

Issue & Discussion	Action
<p>Query about development of a pathway for young leaders. John Nolan to follow up and report back to June 2013 meeting. Does CSU have a linguistics course? Working on a Wiradjuri language course and language is currently being taught at TAFE certificate levels.</p> <p><b>9. NSW Department of Fair Trading – National Indigenous Consumer Protection Project</b> (Presentation attached)</p> <p><b>10. Tim Gattrell, Director Recognise (formerly You Me Unity) – Constitutional recognition for Aboriginal people in the Australian Constitution</b> Presentation attached</p>	
<p>Meeting Closed at 4.45pm</p>	
<p>Wednesday 13 March 2013 Meeting opened at 9.08am</p> <p><b>11. Ms Louise Bye and Mr Leonard Hill FaHCSIA</b></p> <p>RPA- Federal government waiting on State Government to sign off. Minister Macklin is interested in attending to sign off on the RPA. Way we work together is important part of how successful the RPA becomes and we acknowledge the work of the MPRA to date including the Young Leaders program. Young leaders is a signature program of Dubbo ICC. DEWAR and FaHCSIA have both committed significantly to the Young Leaders program which indicates the Federal government’s commitment to the development of young people. Important to have young people involved with the Assembly on a regular basis. Need to generate more local contact with younger people in different areas across the region. Important for participation to occur at CWP level. Funding support is set aside to 30 June 2013. Funding request for next 2 years has gone to Minister but hasn’t progressed due to State Government not yet signing off. Possibility that some of the RJCP Youth Corps funding could be accessed to support Young Leaders. It is unclear when RJCP announcements will be made although ongoing discussions have been undertaken. In areas outside the RJCP areas, the JSA’s will be continuing until 2015.</p> <p>Under the RJCP arrangements there will be 1 Community Action Plan per region which will require the provider to liaise with CWP’s in the region and develop a plan which includes existing plans. While there may be 1 provider there will be a need for partnerships to be developed across the regions.</p> <p>For those CWP areas outside the CDEP participants will need to be registered with a JSA before the 30 June 2013. CDEP asset issues are complex matters. Assets under a \$10,000 threshold the CDEP organisation can retain the assets. Assets over \$10,000 the organisation with responsibility for the asset has the right for asset to be returned to them. Property and buildings are considered differently and in some instances the property and buildings are retained for community benefit.</p>	<p>Action: That a meeting be convened between FaHCSIA, MPREC and MPRA Chair to define how the Young Leaders Project will work with the Assembly. Relationship between CWP Chairs and Young Leaders needs to continue to be built.</p> <p>Action: Chair to write to Carol McDiarmid regarding the attendance of young people and public service staff at CWP meetings and Assembly meetings.</p>

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Issue & Discussion	Action
<p>Building in Broken Hill for CDEP was sold – who got asset funds from that? Action for FaHCSIA representative. RJCP provider could work with existing mining in the far western region.</p>	
<p>Use the mining compacts that have been previously negotiated to underpin any further opportunities that come into the region. Although not much benefit was experienced it was mainly about engagement of mining companies. When the question was asked of the company what sort of skill set do you need? Need people not skill sets as Crystal are an RTO and will train to meet their shortages. Need to be mindful of identification of the number of sites as sometimes it is about getting away from their responsibilities.</p>	<p>Action: Leonard Hill to follow up and provide response between meetings to Chair for information to Broken Hill Chair.</p>
<p>CDEP participation rates are declining in most of the regions for a variety of reasons. RJCP was created because of the recognition that CDEP participants were being trained for jobs that don't exist. ICC is down 3 positions and recruitment is occurring. RSD is still occurring – planning to transition out of the areas. Evaluation process is being undertaken.</p>	
<p><b>12. Glen Inglis and Wayne Trudgeon – Local Government Review Panel (Presentation attached)</b></p>	
<p><b>13. Jason Ardler, Mark Conlon and Tracey Shillingsworth OAA</b></p>	
<p>Regional Partnership Agreement – Concerns for Minister Dominello regarding structures and those concerns appear to have been dealt with. Proposal is that RPA goes to Minister before the end of the week. How does OAA assist MPRA to engage with discussions regarding representation, decision making should the MPRA take a more active part of any government process if that is necessary?</p>	<p>Action: OAA to workshop with MPRA regarding models and what the model is designed to do. Half day of next MPRA meeting in June to engage in this discussion.</p>
<p>Is this model (MPRA) still relevant? Another discussion for delegates to consider and engage in over the coming months. Need to consider resourcing, is there a relationship with local government and is this the right vehicle to do that?</p>	
<p>Taskforce – findings presentation was deferred because of waiting for the Ombudsman's report into child protection. Response from Minister perhaps early next week on the findings. Key initiatives include Connected Communities, language revitalisation, transitioning young people from school to work and decision making processes. Keen to engage with MPRA regarding decision making processes as part of that. Regional decision making processes look to be the way of the future and keen to engage but will go to an EOI in order to engage in that process.</p>	
<p>Land Rights Act reform – 47 amendments to the Land Rights Act, less regulation and easier implementation. Working groups reform regarding land claims could be negotiated rather than claim by claim resulting in economic and social justice concerns. Minister's focus is on social and economic benefit. Issues regarding land rights because of focus on selling land for limited economic benefits impacts differently in the western region than in the metropolitan region but the importance long term of land rights and land ownership for Aboriginal people should get more support in government circles. Perhaps look at localised Economic development forum to further some of those discussions. Changes to Land Rights Act came about because of sale of major lots of land on north</p>	

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<p>coast. Report attached.</p> <p>Maureen O'Donnell left the meeting.</p> <p><b>14. Caroline Duncan FACS</b> - 13 SLA's completed. 3 SLA's outstanding – Wentworth/Dareton negotiations undertaken with CWP, waiting to hear back, Engonnia and Weilmoringle CWP's no response. Community Services staff were supposed to attend CWP mtgs and it didn't happen. Bourke SLA worked well with most items achieved due to DCS staff and CWP working together to achieve agreed outcomes. Glynnis received a Public service award mostly in recognition for her work in SLA's and working with the MPRA. DCS to start CWP visits and completing the SLA's. SLA's assist to ensure accountability for community services delivery in communities. SLA's brings a bit of transparency to what public funding is coming into the community.</p> <p>Meeting Closed at 5.00pm</p>	
<b>Thursday 14 March 2013</b>	
<p><b>Meeting opened at 9.10am</b></p> <p><b>15. Des Jones and Clr Craig Cromelin NSWALC</b> Presentation attached. Discussion regarding support for NSWALC application for mining licence. Chair indicated support for working with NSWALC on common strategies like economic development in the region.</p> <p>13 April NAIDOC Ball in Broken Hill for interested parties.</p> <p>Question has been raised as to why Euston is not included in MPRA area. Chair has raised the question with the delegates if Euston could be included. Discussion to be conducted with Euston representatives and MPRA Chair.</p> <p>Collarenebri - has cancelled its CWP meetings this year due to deaths in the community. SLA ready to be signed off with DCS.</p> <p>Goodooga - TAFE went to Goodooga to ascertain what courses would be required to be run in community. Goodooga SES has extra two vehicles. BSC has agreed to establish new entrance into cemetery – should be done by the time CWP Chair returns to community. Bowling Club is accessible to community. Shop to be established in community within next year, driven by Goodooga LALC. Community has funds with Shire – purchase of table and chairs for campsite.</p> <p>Ivanhoe – funds for playground successfully gained, Land Council may be up and running in a couple of weeks.</p> <p>Brewarrina – RSL may be able to get bowling green if they can get additional funds. Contact MPREC for funding sources.</p> <p>Re-Implement attendance sheets.</p> <p>Cobar – Increase in numbers of Aboriginal children in 3 schools some new, some increase in local enrolments. Some children have been re-located.</p>	<p>Action: Letter of support for the NSWALC mining application to go to the relevant Minister with a copy to NSWALC.</p> <p>Action: Include MPRA activities in setting agenda from now on.</p> <p>Action: Chair to follow up with Ombudsman's report regarding paragraph 5.1</p> <p>Action: Letter of support to be sent to Bourke CWP regarding Bourke being a site in the Justice re-development with CC to Tom Calma and Mick Gooda.</p>

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<p>Bourke – NSW Ombudsman’s report – Responding to Child Sexual Assault 5.2 role of government in community development. Justice re-investment presentation has been forwarded to Secretariat for delegate’s information. Looking for feedback. Seeking support of assembly for Bourke to be a site under the Justice re-investment model. Community Action Plan to be finalised by the end of this week. Housing project with Lendlease- almost completed, finished by the end of May 2013, may be able to co-ordinate with NGO Forum in Bourke to view project.</p> <p>Lightning Ridge – Sod turning for the LR AICFC – Ministers were unable to attend due to Parliament sitting at that time. Historical day as 9 Centres are being built in NSW LR is the only one being built on Aboriginal land. NSWALC have been very helpful in assisting the Native Title process. Disappointed at the lack of attendance from BBC who won the tender for the AICFC. Western CMA is putting application to govt to have Angledool gazetted as an Aboriginal place. Try to get 20% Aboriginal workforce for the building which Chair has been told needs to happen through the Job Network. Through school, logo for AICFC was conducted and we have a winning entry from Jack Thompson.</p> <p>Craig Cromelin NSWALC – Telstra survey regarding technology and its issues in western NSW. Access to mobile network and to raise network issues for consideration by Telstra. Contact to be provided to MPRA for discussions.</p> <p>NGO Forum in Bourke is on 15 and 16 May 2013 at Diggers on the Darling.</p> <p><b>Meeting schedule for 2013</b> 12-14 March 11-13 June 17-19 September 10-12 December</p> <p><b>Meeting closed at 1.15pm.</b></p>	



**Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly meeting, Cobar 12-14 March 2013**

<b>Issue &amp; Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
	<p>MOTION: Increase the monthly meeting amounts for CWP's to \$300.00 Moved: J Barker Seconded: C Hooper Carried</p>
<b>NEXT MEETING: 12-14 March 2013</b>	

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