



MURDI PAAKI REGIONAL ASSEMBLY NEWSLETTER

CHAIRPERSON UPDATE



The Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly's independent Chairperson is Des Jones. Des Jones is a Murrumbidgee man born in Brewarrina NSW, living in Wentworth. Prior to his appointment as Chairperson of the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly, Des was Chairperson of the Murdi Paaki Regional Housing Corporation – a position he has held for 20 years and still holds. For more than 35 years Des has had a strong interest in social justice, economic development, revival of Aboriginal culture, language maintenance and sites protection, and is passionate about improving health outcomes for Aboriginal people. He has had a long association with Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation and joined the Board in 1996 making him the longest serving Board member. He was Chairperson of the Board for many years and is currently the Deputy Chairperson. Des' commitment to the Murdi Paaki region and its communities is unwavering and he strives to see all individuals and families benefiting from improved services and programs, communities empowering themselves to solve social justice issues, and for the Assembly to have strong working relationships with all government agencies and all Aboriginal communities.

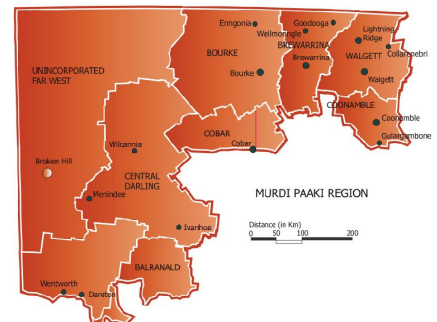
Des Jones

MURDI PAAKI REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Through consultations conducted across the Murdi Paaki Region through the Lessons Learned findings, it has become evident that Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly (MPRA) business has not been relayed to community members. MPRA business is regional business that has been endorsed by MPRA members that should be taken back to communities by Community Working Party Chairperson's. A quarterly newsletter will be sent out to all Community Working Party Chairpersons that detail the discussions and changes that have occurred from each meeting with the aim to enhance communication and knowledge across our region.

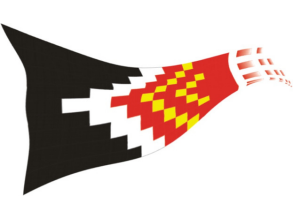
the MPRA is the peak Aboriginal governance and representative body for the Murdi Paaki Region. The MPRA consists of an individual Chairperson, 16 Community Working Party (CWP) Chairpersons, Young and Emerging Leaders and three Lands Council Members. Each quarter the MPRA meets with a range of government and non-government agencies to discuss the issues across the Region, with the hopes that potential funding can be used for services to be delivered in the Murdi Paaki communities. The MPRA currently has a sub-committee for the Accord Mark II process which is looking at the priorities outlined in the 2016 Regional Plan. These priorities are:

- Justice
- Early Childhood
- Education
- Public Works



The Regional Plan can be found at: www.mpra.com.au





MURDI PAAKI SERVICES

Murdi Paaki Services (MPS) is wholly owned by the MPRA and is governed by a Board comprising of Regional Assembly members. MPS allows MPRA to enter into legal binding agreements, acts as an auspice gives government a clear pathway for investment. Murdi Paaki Services is located at 25 Barton Street, Cobar.

MPS Chief Executive Officer, Daniel Rose was appointed in December 2018 and is responsible for the following staff:

Jasey Bruce - Administration and Finance.

Kayla Cohen - MPRA Secretary

Lavenia Flick - Community Project Coordinator

Jason Ford - Sydney University Project Coordinator

Recently, MPS staff accompanied Burns Aldis on a trip to various communities in the Murdi Paaki Region, where it was evident that there is a lack of knowledge surrounding the MPRA and MPS and their duties. MPS hopes to eliminate these issues through the development and delivery of a quarterly newsletter. If there are any concerns, MPS staff can be reached from 8.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

MPS staff have been working with CWP Chairpersons to finalise and endorse the Community Action Plans (CAPs). MPS endeavours to have these completed and returned to CWP's by the end of September. MPS have been working closely with the Wilcannia CWP and Water NSW with the construction of the Wilcannia Weir.

MPS will be soon undertaking their audit of the 2018-2019 financial year by Paul Campion. Paul will be in Cobar on the 10th-13th of September. The Annual Report will be available at the next MPRA meeting.

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REGIONAL ABORIGINAL HOUSING LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY

The Regional Aboriginal Housing Leadership Assembly (RAHLA) exists because in 2015, the MPRA initiated a major grass-roots review of the Aboriginal social Housing sector in Western NSW. Due to negotiations held with government in 2018 by William 'Smiley' Johnstone, RAHLA Project Director, Daniel Rose and Des Jones, the MPRA signed the Social Housing Accord on December 10th 2018. The purpose of the accord is to provide strategic and policy leadership for the agreement to improve social housing outcomes in the Murdi Paaki Region ensuring a cohesive and coordinated approach between all parties to the agreement.

The RAHLA is comprised of independent Chairperson, Micheal Gooda, four MPRA members and four government representatives. Since the signing of the Accord, the RAHLA has met multiple times to determine the priorities, projects and procurement processes.



Des Jones and the Honourable Sarah Mitchell signing the Social Housing Accord in Dubbo.



The MPRA and the Honourable Sarah Mitchell signing of the the Social Housing Accord in Dubbo.