



# WENTWORTH/DARETON COMMUNITY WORKING PARTY

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2019



**MURDI PAAKI  
REGIONAL  
ASSEMBLY**

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This Community Action Plan (CAP) was developed through the Wentworth/Dareton Community Working Party (CWP). This process has been supported by on-the-ground staff, other Government Departments and most importantly driven by local Aboriginal community members. The Wentworth/Dareton CWP would like to thank the members who participated in the planning process and workshops. The Wentworth/Dareton CWP represents five distinct towns or areas of the Wentworth Shire: Wentworth, Dareton, Namatjirra Avenue, Buronga, Gol Gol and surrounds.

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Elders past, present and those to come of the Barkindji Nation of which the Wentworth/Dareton area is part. We also acknowledge and pay respect to those Elders, past, present and future and those from other Nations who have found their home now in Wentworth, Dareton and other communities in the area.

In the introduction to its regional plan, the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly (MPRA) acknowledges with respect the roles of the Local Aboriginal Land Councils, Native Title holders and claims groups in asserting our people's rights to Country through the Native Title and Land Rights regimes, and affirms that MPRA's agenda does not cut across these roles in any way.

This plan belongs to Wentworth Shire communities. The licensee of this document is the Wentworth/Dareton CWP. They have full and unrestricted First Party Rights of Use.

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# ABBREVIATIONS

<b>ADHC</b>	Dept. of Aging Disability and Home Care
<b>AHO</b>	Aboriginal Housing Office
<b>CAP</b>	Community Action Plan
<b>COAG</b>	Council of Australian Governments
<b>CWP</b>	Community Working Party
<b>DEEWR</b>	Dept. of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
<b>DHFWHD</b>	Dept of Health - Far West Local Health District
<b>HACC</b>	Home and Community Care
<b>IBA</b>	Indigenous Business Australia
<b>MPRA</b>	Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly
<b>MPSL</b>	Murdi Paaki Services Limited
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Government Organisation
<b>NIAA</b>	National Indigenous Australian Agency
<b>RAHLA</b>	Regional Aboriginal Housing Leadership Assembly
<b>RDA</b>	Regional Development Australia
<b>REDI.E</b>	Regional Enterprise Development Institute Ltd
<b>RFDS</b>	Royal Flying Doctors Service

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This CAP has been developed by the Wentworth/Dareton CWP with support from Murdi Paaki Services Limited (MPSL). It is intended to inform external agencies of the priorities of the Aboriginal communities represented by the Wentworth/Dareton CWP (Wentworth, Dareton, Namatjirra Avenue, Buronga, Gol Gol and surrounds) and provide guidance in working with the Wentworth/Dareton CWP to improve services and programs.

The towns of Wentworth, Dareton, Namatjirra Avenue, Buronga and Gol Gol are in the south-west of the Murdi Paaki Region in the Wentworth Shire. The traditional owners of the Wentworth Shire area are the Barkindji river people, however its population consists of many different mobs from other communities across Australia. The Wentworth Shire contains some of the most significant known sites of Aboriginal occupation in Australia, including those at Mungo National Park. The Wentworth Shire had a total population of 6794 people, of whom 650 or 9.6% identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

The Wentworth/Dareton CWP commenced in 1995, having grown from the Housing, Infrastructure Priority Program (HIPP). It is now the peak Aboriginal governance and representative body for the Wentworth/Dareton Aboriginal Community. It is one of sixteen CWPs representing the communities of the Murdi Paaki Region and forming the MPRA. The Assembly and the CWP are governed in their relationship with the NSW government by the Murdi Paaki Local Decision-Making (LDM) Accord.

The Wentworth/Dareton CWP sets community priorities to guide external agencies such as government departments, Non-Government Organisations and the private sector in developing policies and programs for the Wentworth Shire's Aboriginal Community. When working in the Wentworth Shire, external agencies should follow the engagement process set by the Wentworth/Dareton CWP to ensure they adhere to principles of LDM, co-design and community capacity building.

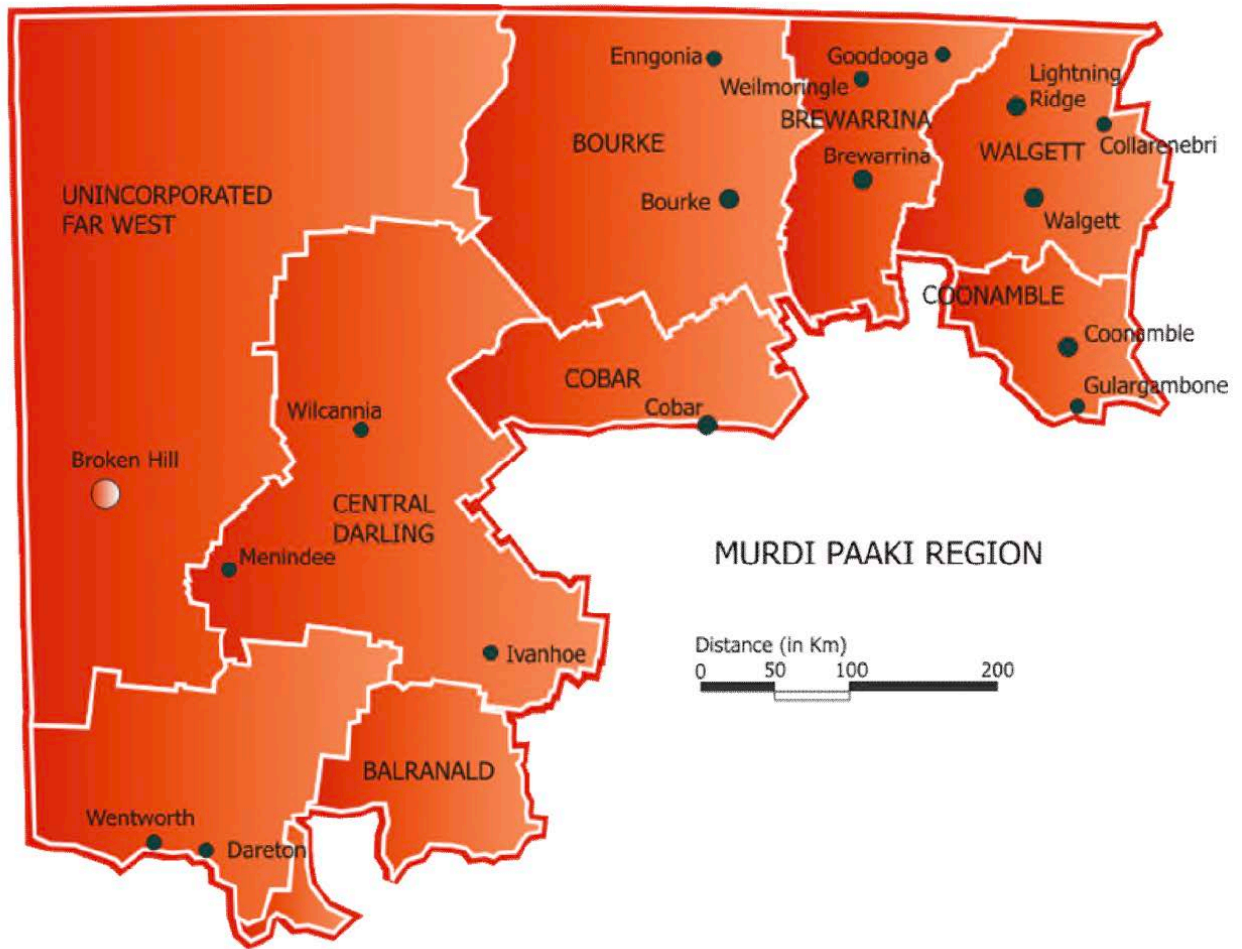
Since being formally recognised as the governance body in 2010, the Wentworth/Dareton CWP has reviewed their existing CAP and identified priorities to improve the fundamental needs of their community. The six priorities outlined in this CAP are culture and heritage; housing; safe and healthy communities; economic development; education; and employment and training.



# COMMUNITY PROFILE

## MURDI PAAKI REGION

The towns of Wentworth, Dareton, Namatjirra Avenue, Buronga and Gol Gol are in the south-west of the Murdi Paaki Region in the Wentworth Shire.



Murdi Paaki Region (Murdi Paaki Regional Plan)

## HISTORY

The traditional owners of the Wentworth Shire area are the Barkindji river people, however its population consists of many different mobs from other communities across Australia. The Wentworth/Dareton CWP represents five distinct towns or areas of the Wentworth Shire: Wentworth, Dareton, Namatjirra Avenue, Buronga, Gol Gol and surrounds.

The Wentworth Shire contains some of the most significant known sites of Aboriginal occupation in Australia. The earliest records are found at Lake Mungo, part of Mungo National Park. As the River Murray was one of the most densely populated parts of Australia, its foreshores, tributaries and adjacent lakes are home to a large distribution of artefacts, middens, burials and other evidence.

The Shire has some 284 registered sites currently listed with the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service, and many new sites are being investigated. These sites include some very important finds relating to Aboriginal culture, including the significant Lake Nitchie area, the Rufus Creek Massacre burial site and the Snaggy Bend Aboriginal burial ground. The area has not been extensively investigated and many potential sites are subject to change through urban and rural development, and in particular, the effects of flooding, farming practice, tourism, and recreational development.

## LOCATION

Wentworth Shire is a Local Government Area in the far south-west of New South Wales, Australia, just over the river from Mildura, on the Victorian side. Its major roads are the Sturt and the Silver City Highways. The Shire includes the towns of Wentworth, Buronga, Gol Gol, Dareton and Pooncarie.

Wentworth is a small border town in the far south west of the state of New South Wales, Australia. It lies at the confluence of Australia's two most important rivers, the Darling and the Murray, the latter forming the border with Victoria to the south. The border with the state of South Australia lies approximately 100 km to the west.

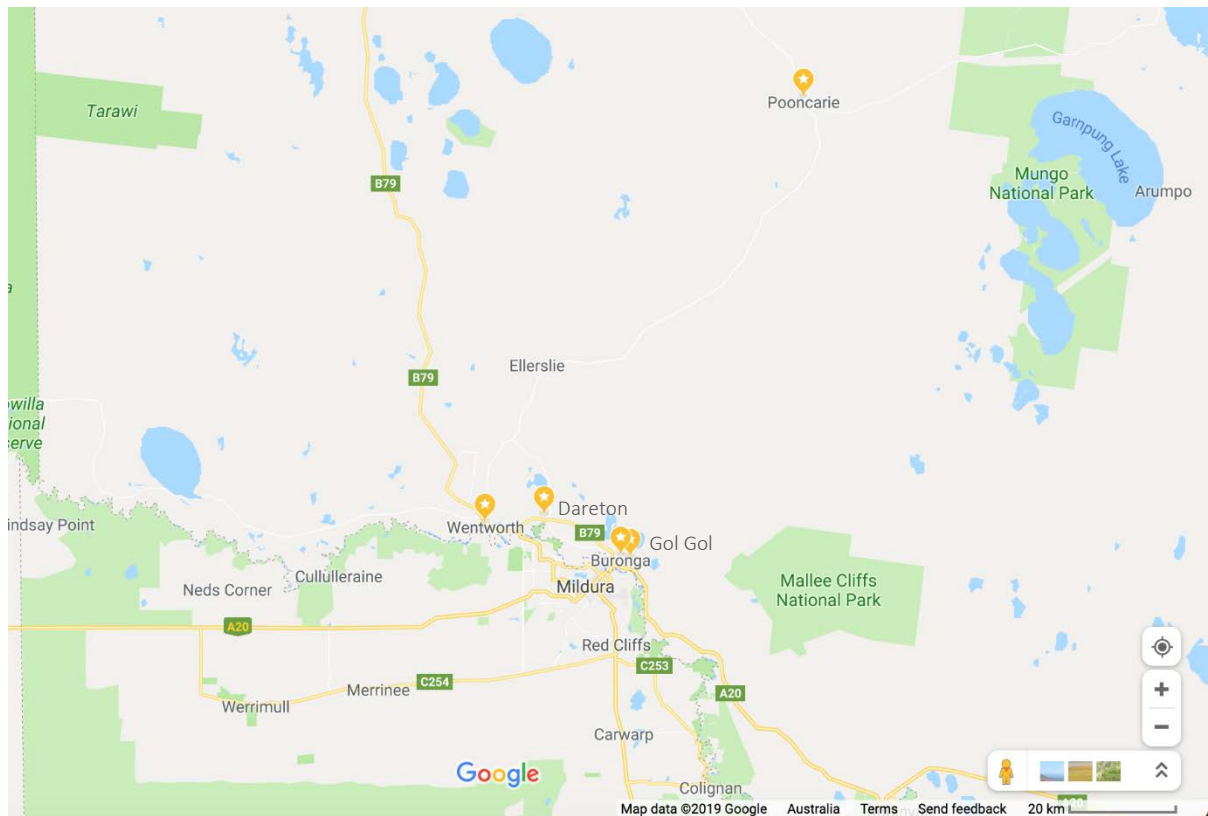
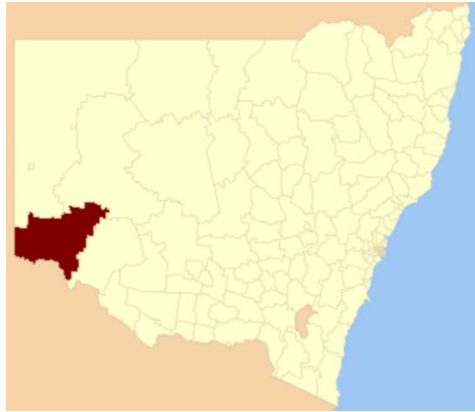
Dareton is 27 kilometres east of Wentworth. The town is located on the Silver City Highway, 1,025 kilometres west of the state capital, Sydney and 20 kilometres from the regional centre, Mildura, across the border in Victoria. Located on the Murray River, the town is at the heart of the Coomealla Irrigation Area. Dareton was once home to an Aboriginal mission: this is now a residential area for Aboriginal people.

Buronga is located another 20 kilometres east of Dareton. Sitting on the Murray River, Buronga is connected to Mildura, Victoria by the George Chaffey Bridge. Given their proximity, Buronga operates largely as a satellite suburb of the regional centre of Mildura.

Gol Gol sits close to Buronga, four kilometres east. It is situated on the banks of the Murray River, which forms part of the New South Wales-Victoria state border, in the Sunraysia fruit-growing region of north-western Victoria. As with Buronga, rapid development in recent years has rendered Gol Gol virtually a suburb of Mildura, approximately 6 kilometres to the west on the other side of the river.



Pooncarie is on the eastern side of the Darling River 120 kilometres north of Wentworth. The surrounding region of Pooncarie is semi-arid with an outback landscape rich in eucalypt woodlands. Pooncarie is the closest centre to Mungo National Park, 88 kilometres to the town's east.



Wentworth Shire, Location in South-West NSW

(Source map above: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wentworth\\_Shire#/media/File:Wentworth\\_LGA\\_NSW.png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wentworth_Shire#/media/File:Wentworth_LGA_NSW.png))

## POPULATION STATISTICS<sup>1\*</sup>

At the 2016 Census, the Wentworth Shire had a total population of 6794 people, of whom 650 or 9.6% identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. According to the Census, population statistics for the five individual towns representation by the Wentworth Dareton CWP are as follows:

Town	Total Pop.	First Nations (FN) Pop.	FN Male	FN Female	FN Median Age
Wentworth	1437	139 (9.7%)	71	73	31
Dareton	501	195 (38.3%)	95	97	26
Buronga	1212	96 (7.9%)	41	55	24
Gol Gol	1523	32 (2.1%)	12	18	25
Pooncarie	166	6 (3.6%)	3	3	37

The following statistics are based on the First Nations population for the whole of the Wentworth Shire. In the Shire-wide First Nations population in 2016, there were 331 females and 313 males. There were 191 individuals under the age of 14 years old (29.3% of the First Nations population) and 45 over 65 years old (6.9%). The median age of Wentworth Shire's First Nations people was 26 years. 40 people (6.2%) spoke a First Nations language at home.

Of the 424 First Nations people 15 years or over no longer attending school, 49 (11.6%) attained year 12 or equivalent. 65 of these people (15.3%) had a higher education qualification at a certificate level. 12 people had a bachelor's degree. Eight people were attending TAFE and three people University at the time of the census. 25.6% of First Nations people in the Wentworth Shire were participants in the labour force. There was a 24.2% unemployment rate within this group. The total percentage of the First Nations population in employment was 19.7%.

The median personal income was \$327 per week. 6.8% of the First Nations adult population earned over \$1000 per week. The median weekly household income for First Nations families was \$744 per week.

The average household size for First Nations families was 3 people with an average of 1 person per bedroom. The proportion of dwellings that needed one or more extra bedrooms was 12.2%.

\*Please note that Australian Census figures can be inaccurate, particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families who have a lower census response rate and a higher transient population.

<sup>1</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, 'Wentworth (A) (LGA18200) 26256.2 km<sup>2</sup>, 2016 Census of Population and Housing: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Profile. Catalogue no. 2002.0  
[https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census\\_services/getproduct/census/2016/communityprofile/LGA18200?opendocument](https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/communityprofile/LGA18200?opendocument), accessed 28 Sept 2019.



# WENTWORTH/DARETON COMMUNITY WORKING PARTY

## ROLE AND PURPOSE

CWPs are the peak Aboriginal governance and representative body for each community within the Murdi Paaki region. The Wentworth/Dareton CWP meets on a regular basis. Its membership reflects the diversity of the Aboriginal community with members having the opportunity to participate at a local level.

The Wentworth/Dareton CWP commenced in 1995, having grown from the Housing, Infrastructure Priority Program (HIPP). In the formative years the working party was a strong and progressive group, well represented by all sections of the Aboriginal Community from Wentworth, Dareton, Namatjirra Mission, Buronga, Gol Gol surrounding areas as well as from Mildura, across the Victorian border. Meetings were held quarterly and well attended by community together with support from Wentworth Shire Council, Dareton Local Aboriginal Lands Council, government agencies, and non-government organisations.

In 2003, Wentworth/Dareton commenced the Murdi Paaki Council of Australian Governments (COAG) trial. With the establishment of their community reference group they were able to engage with government agencies to start a planning process to address the basic needs of the Wentworth/Dareton Aboriginal community. Participation in the COAG trial was a critical component in the successful delivery of the Aboriginal Community Development Program (ACDP).

Over the years the Wentworth/Dareton CWP has been challenged with meeting regularly and maintaining consistent membership, this has been overcome by having several refresh meetings and changing the membership to open meetings up to all Aboriginal people living in the Wentworth Shire. In July 2010 a Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct was developed and endorsed which resulted in the Wentworth/Dareton CWP becoming recognised as the community engagement group that both state and federal government should firstly consult with under the Two Ways Together Partnership Community Program.

In 2009, the Wentworth/Dareton CWP acknowledged the Two Ways Together Community Partnership Program. In July 2010 a Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct was developed and endorsed which resulted in the Wentworth/Dareton CWP being the formally recognised governance body for the region.

This CWP recognises that the Two Ways Together Community Partnership Program will engage government agencies to work in partnership with Aboriginal communities. It is with this commitment and a whole of government approach that the Wentworth/Dareton CWP can work in a collaborative way to improve and respond to community's needs, increase service delivery, improve the quality of the lives of our community and achieve sustainable outcomes on the ground for our people.

Through the MPRA the CWP is a signatory to the Murdi Paaki Regional Partnership Agreement (2009-2011) and as such is recognised by the NSW and Australian governments who are co signatories to the RPA. The acting Chair of the CWP continues to participate in MPRA meetings. The Wentworth/Dareton CWP is also committed to working towards the targets set by the Closing the Gap policy.

Although the Wentworth/Dareton CWP has had its ups and downs, our engagement and progress will continue for the betterment of our communities in the Wentworth Shire. It is vitally important that we maintain our links to the MPRA because we are the furthest southern town of the Murdi Paaki Area and we are a border town serviced by many different areas in NSW and VIC.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Establishment of a Community Reference Group as part of the Murdi Paaki COAG Trial (2003).
- Formation of the Wentworth/Dareton CWP as a recognised governance body under the Two Ways Together Community Partnership Program (2010)
- Consistent representation by Wentworth/Dareton CWP Chairs on the MPRA.
- participation in the Aboriginal Communities Development Program (ACDP);
- advocating for the establishment of a TAFE which resulted in the setting up of the Riverina campus (2003);
- endorsing and supporting the development of the Dareton Community Hall (2007/2008);
- endorsing and supporting Mallee Family Care to become established in Dareton offering family and youth support services in South Western NSW (2003), and
- Memorandum of Agreement between the CWP and Wentworth Shire (2004).
- Supporting Mission Australia to set up services and an office in Dareton (2011).
- Supporting our local Schools with NAIDOC Celebrations each year.
- Supporting the Barkindji Maurara Elders Environment Team (2011).

## VISION

The Wentworth/Dareton CWP's vision is to support Aboriginal people in their:

- Spiritual, social and emotional, and physical wellbeing.
- Citizenship and political engagement.
- Culture of success.
- Economic independence and sustainability.
- Integrated service delivery.
- Devolved decision making and community autonomy.

The Wentworth/Dareton CWP is committed to supporting, protecting and promoting local Aboriginal service provision, business and consultation processes for their community.

## VALUES

The Wentworth Dareton CWP holds the following values:

### **Trust, Unity and Honesty**

The trust, unity and honesty of individuals, their families, communities and organisations.

### **Equity, Representation and Opportunity**

The equitable allocation of resources, the representation of our people and the opportunity for them to be heard, individually and as one people.

### **Accountability and Responsibility**

Accountable and responsibility to ourselves, our people, our communities, our Governments and our wider contacts, networks and partnerships.

### **Culture Heritage and Responsibility:**

Our heritage, identity and the sustainability of our Aboriginal culture.

### **Achievements and Success**

Aboriginal individuals, communities and organisations' success and achievements.

# ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The internal structure refers to the governance of the Wentworth/Dareton CWP itself and its connections to the Aboriginal community and the MPRA. The Wentworth/Dareton CWP acts as a professional and culturally appropriate consultation arm that is in touch with its Aboriginal community. Internal bodies are governed by the MPRA Charter and Code of Conduct. As the Wentworth/Dareton CWP sits within the MPRA, its relationship with NSW Government departments is governed by the Murdi Paaki LDM Accord Mark II, drafted in May 2019 (Annexure A).

The external organisational structure gives an overview of the community environment within which the Wentworth/Dareton CWP sits. Services delivered in the Wentworth/Dareton Aboriginal community operate under the guidance of the Wentworth/Dareton CWP as the community’s consultation arm. This provides a transparent and culturally appropriate process for all to conduct business that is aligned with community needs and requirements. CWPs are supported by MPSL through Community Coordinators, as outlined in the Project Work Plan (Annexure D). The structure provides a foundation for respectful, community-driven approaches to guide community services and projects, in line with the principles of LDM.

## INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL BODIES

INTERNAL	EXTERNAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Chairperson</li> <li>B. Members</li> <li>C. Aboriginal Community</li> <li>D. MPRA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. MPSL Regional Coordinator</li> <li>B. Local, State and Federal Government</li> <li>C. NGOs and Private Sector</li> <li>D. Local Community</li> </ul>

**Members** encompass Aboriginal Elders, Community and Aboriginal identified government public servants working in the Wentworth/Dareton community.

**MPRA** and its membership of CWPs, form the governance framework that provides strategic engagement and co-ordination from Australian and NSW Governments and service providers for the delivery of services and programs against priorities determined by Aboriginal people through a comprehensive planning process.

**MPSL** is wholly owned by the MPRA and governed by a board of MPRA members. MPSL forms the operating arm of MPRA, giving it a means of entering into legally binding agreements, and provides executive support for MPRA and its chairperson. It builds a robust incontestable evidence base to give governments a clear pathway for investment. It acts as an auspicing agent for MPRA and targets funding as becomes available. Once sufficient

funding is accrued, MPSL Regional Coordinators will provide administrative support to assist CWP to provide leadership in implementing their local CAPs.

This table summarises the roles and responsibilities of internal and external bodies:

INTERNAL	
<b>Traditional Owners/Elders</b>	Are members of the Wentworth/Dareton CWP.
<b>Aboriginal Community Members</b>	Act in an advisory role and as members of the Wentworth/Dareton CWP.
<b>MPRA</b>	Is the governing arm of CWP in the Murdi Paaki region.
EXTERNAL	
<b>MPSL</b>	Is the operational arm of the MPRA.
<b>State and Federal Government</b>	Consults consistently with the Wentworth/Dareton CWP as the peak LDM body to come to agreements on strategies to address common issues and goals for the local Aboriginal community.
<b>Local Government</b>	Works towards achieving outcomes and addressing localised Aboriginal issues in collaboration with the Wentworth/Dareton CWP.
<b>NGOs</b>	Help the Wentworth/Dareton CWP achieve goals through appropriate assistance and funding opportunities; are accountable and responsible to the Wentworth/Dareton CWP, using it to oversee the implementation of Aboriginal programs within the Wentworth Shire community.
<b>Private Sector</b>	Work with the Wentworth/Dareton CWP for future employment and economic participation strategies for Aboriginal people.
<b>Wider community &amp; other stakeholders</b>	Are entitled to the transparency of actions, achievements and focus areas of the Wentworth/Dareton CWP and should be encouraged in active participation.

Table 1: Roles, Internal and External Bodies

## THE ACCORD

As the Wentworth/Dareton CWP sits within the MPRA, the relationship between the CWP and NSW Government departments is governed by the Murdi Paaki LDM Accord Mark II, as

drafted in May 2019 (see Annexures). Implementation processes for facilitating the Accord are included in Annexures B and C.

When external bodies engage with the Wentworth/Dareton CWP following the engagement process outlined in this CAP, they will support key principles from the Accord, particularly the following:

- 2.1.2** Aboriginal leaders and Elders understand their own community needs. They have the drive and ability to develop their own solutions.
- 2.1.5** Regional and local solutions for regional and local problems, with ideas and help from outside when, where and in the form in which the Assembly requests it.
- 2.1.10** A genuine commitment on the part of both parties to developing transformative rather than transactional relationships, with a renewed focus on developing innovative and holistic solutions and on considering different, more equal approaches to partnership.
- 2.1.11** Optimising returns on investment through better targeted, more efficient, effective and equitable forms of program and service delivery.<sup>2</sup>

As per the Accord, the NSW Government can use this CAP to fulfil its obligations to 'collaborate with the Assembly to seek solutions and achieve tangible outcomes and to foster partnerships with each other' and to 'operate consistently within the principles of LDM and ensure the Aboriginal cultural competence of their staff to improve the quality of services delivered, and to better respond to the needs of Aboriginal communities in a culturally safe manner.'<sup>3</sup> In turn, by working through MPSL to support CWPs to develop, review and deliver the CAP, the Assembly meets its obligations to 'support CWPs in negotiating agreements with the NSW Government at a community level to plan for and deliver local initiatives.'<sup>4</sup>



## THE PLAN

### INTERNAL IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

This CAP was developed by the Wentworth/Dareton CWP to reflect the aspirations and needs of the Wentworth/Dareton Aboriginal Community and address service gaps and inadequacies. To fulfil these aspirations and address these gaps, the CAP includes an action plan with a range of strategies prioritised by need. Priorities from all CAPs across the region

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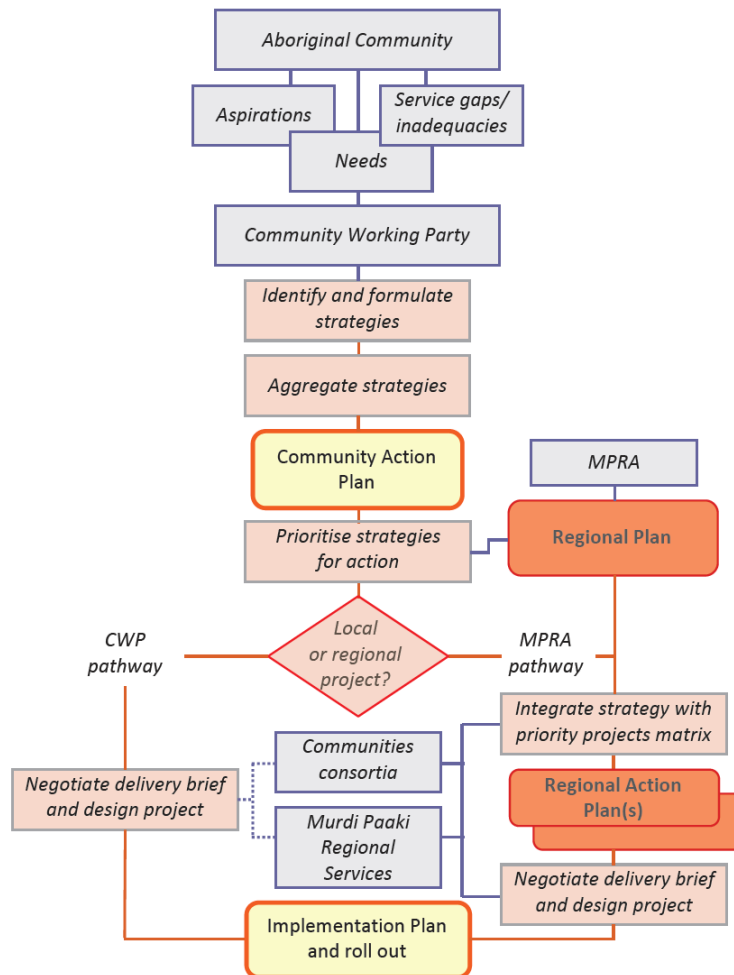
<sup>2</sup> Murdi Paaki Local Decision Making Accord, May 2019, pp. 3-4.

<sup>3</sup> Murdi Paaki Local Decision Making Accord, May 2019, p. 6.

<sup>4</sup> Murdi Paaki Local Decision Making Accord, May 2019, p. 7.



informed regional priorities in eight action areas in the Regional Plan. Local priorities, as outlined in individual CAPs, will be addressed by the CWP with support from MPRA and external bodies. Regional priorities will be addressed by MPRA with support from external bodies. This internal implementation process is outlined in the diagram below:



Implementation Process, from Murdi Paaki Regional Plan

## ENGAGEMENT PROCESS FOR EXTERNAL BODIES

To assist the internal implementation process and ensure service delivery meets community aspirations and needs, external bodies, such as government departments, NGOs and the private sector, should follow a culturally appropriate engagement process with the CWP, as the peak representative body and professional and culturally appropriate consultation arm for the Wentworth/Dareton Aboriginal Community. The steps below, further illustrated in the following flowchart, will ensure an engagement process guided by principles of co-design, LDM and community capacity building.

### Ongoing:

#### Communicate

- Keep in regular contact with CWPs through the Chair and Secretary as per the LDM process.
- Regularly attend CWP meetings to provide updates, but more importantly, gather information about current community priorities as led by the LDM process.
- Keep connected to wider community stakeholders, through the CWP.
- Ensure local cultural protocols are followed, as guided by the CWP.

#### Plan

- Map current policy and program initiatives against priorities in the CAP (see Appendix B for template).
- Update six-monthly to continue alignment with community priorities.
- Plan future policy and program development to address priorities in the CAP (see Appendix B for template).
- Check planned initiatives with CWP and wider community stakeholders to ensure they address community needs, before developing detailed plans.
- Develop policy and/or program outlines.

#### Consult

- Engage the CWP as the lead facilitators in culturally appropriate consultation on planned policies and/or programs.
- Engage the CWP to guide stakeholder lists for consultation.
- Hold culturally appropriate consultation with CWP and wider community stakeholders on proposed policy and program details.

- Reshape policies and programs to suit community feedback.

## Endorse

- Review final outlines and implementation for endorsement by CWP and wider stakeholders.
- Finalise policy and program outlines.

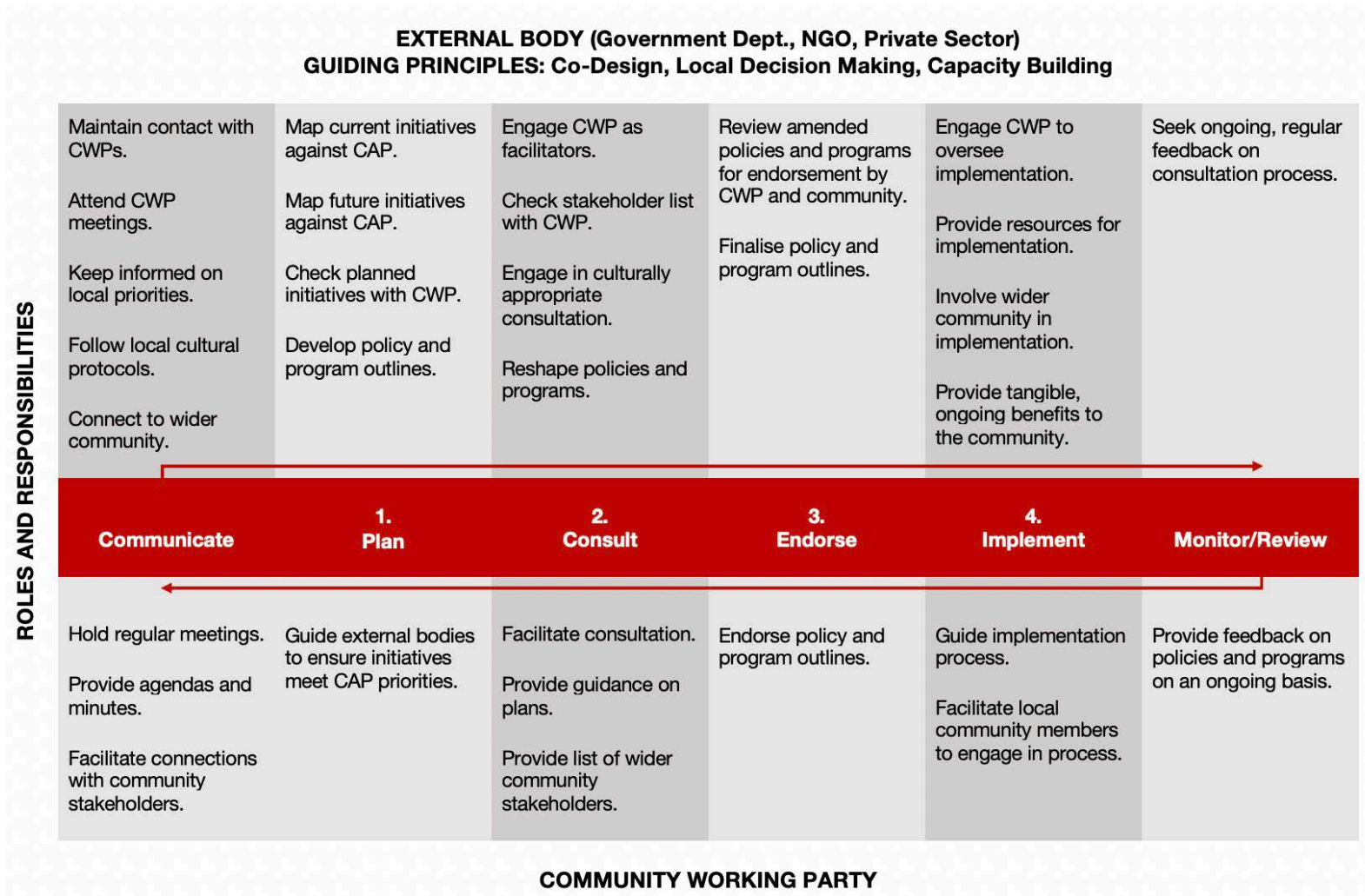
## Implement

- Engage the CWP to oversee the implementation of the policy or program within the community.
- Ensure appropriate resources, such as human resources and infrastructure, are supplied to ensure success of the implementation program and build community capacity on a long-term basis.
- Ensure tangible benefits, such as employment, training and economic development, are provided to the community.

## Ongoing: Monitor and Review

- Seek ongoing feedback on implemented policy and/or program through culturally appropriate consultation process, refining as necessary.

# ENGAGEMENT PROCESS EXTERNAL BODIES



Engagement Process External Bodies

## MONITORING AND REVIEW

This CAP is a living document and will be subject to an annual 12 monthly review for updates and input of additional information to address community needs. At the end of each 12-month period the CWP, along with key agencies, will review the CAP and agree to any suggestions or improvements. Following the revision of the Wentworth/Dareton CAP there will be an evaluation against the performance indicators and timeframes which may be subject for change to include the implementation of new programs. Prior to the 2019 review, the priorities in this CAP were set at a CWP meeting in November 2011 and were confirmed with Boomalli Consulting in April 2012.

## REGIONAL PRIORITIES

The Murdi Paaki Regional Plan identifies eight action areas informed by collating the priorities in all sixteen CAPs across the region. Although priorities differ slightly between CAPs and the regional plan, the symbols below are used throughout the Wentworth/Dareton CAP to indicate connections to regional action areas.



**Heritage and Culture**



**Regional Resourcing and Capability**



**Democracy, Leadership and Citizenship**



**Economic Development**



**Law and Justice**



**Early Childhood and School Education**



**Housing and Infrastructure**



**Wellbeing**

## WENTWORTH/DARETON PRIORITIES

The Wentworth/Dareton CWP has set the following priorities for Aboriginal communities in the Wentworth Shire:

### Culture & Heritage



Culture and Heritage sits as an overarching consideration across all the priorities. As the community's representative body, the CWP acknowledge that individuals, families and communities require localised cultural identity support to connect back to culture. Ultimately this will impact on all of the identified Closing the Gap targets and provide a strong local representation that supports localised initiatives from NGOs and Government. The CWP sees that a strong foundation of values and principles relating to the above increases the community's ability to move forward and lead by example in the actions required by the community. To this end, the Wentworth/Dareton CWP would like to develop a Cultural Engagement Protocol. The CWP acknowledges the primary role of the Local Aboriginal Lands Council in culture and heritage issues.

### Housing



The Wentworth/Dareton CWP will take a proactive approach with housing providers, further developing their relationship with the CWP. This will ensure the private sector will provide transparent information regarding standards of housing and maintenance; establishing on-going development of career pathways in building and maintenance; provide a schedule of notice on maintenance, rental prices and increase forecasts; address over-crowding issues and develop a localised allocation of housing agreement. The CWP also supports initiatives that focus on Aboriginal Home Ownership. The CWP is committed to supporting strategic actions in collaboration with relevant stakeholders to ensure housing issues and requirements reflect the current local demographics, thereby building and growing the community.

### Safe and Healthy Communities



Wentworth/Dareton CWP will encourage consistent and accountable family support from NGOs conducting business in their communities. By helping vulnerable community members to move forward out of 'survival mode', a strong and connected community can emerge. This can only be achieved by having localised services for transport, health and substance misuse and abuse to support individuals and those in their extended family that are affected, thus providing a holistic service that focuses on the well-being of all affected. A constraint to this service provision is the ability for Dareton and surrounding communities to reflect true local area statistics that are not impeded by State demographics (i.e. South Australia).

The CWP looks to develop a communication protocol for service providers to support local Aboriginal community members by delivering seamless and connected services. A focus will

also be on community awareness projects that relate to health, substance misuse and abuse, youth, post-release services, diversionary service and support.

The CWP would like to develop strategies to better support the development of youth projects and diversionary services, including re-integration programs providing engagement opportunities for offenders re-entering their communities.

## **Economic Development**



The CWP supports initiatives that provide and develop sustainable economic development opportunities.

Wentworth/Dareton CWP planning will also include obtaining support to provide local groups with business skills to meet financial and management requirements for land handed over through Native Title.

## **Education**



The Wentworth/Dareton CWP supports school in providing opportunities that strengthen cultural identity and further training towards self-determination for our young people. To facilitate greater student attendance and student retention, the CWP would like to develop strategies such as mentor programs and re-engagement programs. We would like to see greater engagement in education by parents and care-givers and the wider community by promoting strategies through the school plan and encouraging active involvement in and awareness of the AECG. Early intervention and early childhood programs also remain a priority in this CAP.

## **Employment & Training**



The Wentworth/Dareton CWP would like to see an increase in youth traineeships and apprenticeships on offer in Aboriginal communities in the Wentworth Shire. We support strategies to build capacity of Aboriginal people to enter the workforce.

# ACTION PLAN

## 1. CULTURE AND HERITAGE



**Goal:** To provide individuals, families and communities localised cultural identity support to connect back to culture.

Objectives (WHAT)	Strategies (HOW)	Responsibilities (WHO)	Priority (WHEN)
1.1 Set a foundation of values and principles regarding all aspects of business and engagement with the CWP to increase the community's ability to move forward and lead by example in the actions required by the community.	Develop a cultural engagement protocol for interactions with the Wentworth/Dareton CWP.		
	Develop cultural competence training and hold courses with service providers and organisations across the Shire.		

## 2. HOUSING



**Goal:** To provide safe, affordable and quality housing to the Aboriginal community of Wentworth/Dareton in all mediums of housing opportunities.

Objectives (WHAT)	Strategies (HOW)	Responsibilities (WHO)	Priority (WHEN)
2.1 Work with housing providers to improve accessibility and quality of housing for the Aboriginal community.	Engage the management of housing providers to interact regularly with the CWP.	RAHLA	
	Ensure housing providers regularly deliver maintenance schedules and notices regarding current standards of housing.		
	Work with housing providers to conduct analysis of rental costings and forecast increases.		
	Work with housing providers to evaluate over-crowding issues		
	Work with housing providers to prepare a localised allocation of housing agreement		



	Develop a communication strategy with all relevant stakeholders in the housing sector.		
2.2 Increase Aboriginal home ownership in the Shire.			

### 3. SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

**Goal:** To support community members to become strong and connected and forward from survival mode.

Objectives (WHAT)	Strategies (HOW)	Responsibilities (WHO)	Priority (WHEN)
3.1 Increase the provision and quality of localised services in the community.	Provide localised services for transport, health and substance abuse to support individuals and their families.		
	Work with Government to improve accuracy of the demographic statistics of Aboriginal communities in the Wentworth Shire to ensure the appropriate amount of social support is allocated.		
	Develop a communication protocol for NGOs who deliver services to Aboriginal community members.		
3.2 Build the capacity and understanding of the Aboriginal community in engaging with service providers.	Schedule a community expo, presenting services from government and non-government providers.		
	Develop community awareness projects that relate to health, substance abuse, youth and post-release services and support.		
3.3 Increase engagement opportunities for our youth such as projects and diversionary initiatives.	Develop a youth strategy to support the development of youth project and diversionary initiatives.		

3.4 Ensure offenders successfully reintegrate into their community.	Develop and support a re-integration program for offenders.		
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## 4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Goal:** To increase initiatives that provide and support sustainable economic development opportunities.

Objectives (WHAT)	Strategies (HOW)	Responsibilities (WHO)	Priority (WHEN)
4.1 Build the capacity of the Aboriginal community to participate in economic development opportunities.	Obtain support to provide local groups with business skills to meet financial and management requirements for land handed over through Native Title.		

## 5. EDUCATION

**Goal:** To ensure our children and young people have the best possible education.

Objectives (WHAT)	Strategies (HOW)	Responsibilities (WHO)	Priority (WHEN)
5.1 Support the school in strategies that give our children a greater chance at success in school.	Support school to provide strategies that strengthen cultural identity and further training towards self-determination.		
	Increase strategies to improve school attendance and retention.		
	Develop mentor programs and re-engagement programs.		
5.2 Improve early intervention and early childhood programs.			

5.3 Increase community involvement in education.	Develop strategies to improve parent and care-giver engagement.		
	Build awareness of and active involvement in the AECG.		

## 6. EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

**Goal:** To improve opportunities in training and employment for the Aboriginal communities.

<b>Objectives (WHAT)</b>	<b>Strategies (HOW)</b>	<b>Responsibilities (WHO)</b>	<b>Priority (WHEN)</b>
6.1 Build partnerships with employment providers and businesses to link training to employment.	Provide incentives to employers to create positions following training.		



# APPENDICES

- A. Amendments
- B. Current and Future Initiatives Template

# APPENDIX A: AMENDMENTS

## Wentworth/Dareton CAP Amendments

Page No.	Section No.	Description	Adoption date

## APPENDIX B: CURRENT AND FUTURE INITIATIVES TEMPLATE

WENTWORTH/DARETON CAP	CURRENT INITIATIVES			EMERGING AND FUTURE INITIATIVES		
Priority Area	Current initiatives that your Department is delivering in the Wentworth Shire Aboriginal communities	How the initiatives intersect with the Wentworth/Dareton CAP	How the initiatives intersect with the Murdi Paaki Regional Plan action areas	Emerging and future initiatives that your Department could deliver in the Wentworth Shire Aboriginal communities	How the initiatives would intersect with the Wentworth/Dareton CAP	How the initiatives would intersect with the Murdi Paaki Regional Plan
INITIATIVE 1						
INITIATIVE 2						
INITIATIVE 3						



# ANNEXURES

- A. Murdi Paaki LDM Accord II May 2019
- B. Murdi Paaki LDM Accord Mark II Negotiations Logical Model
- C. MPRA and NSW Government LDM Accord Mark II Implementation Process
- D. Murdi Paaki Community Coordinator Programme: Project Work Plan