

RAHLA COMMUNIQUE

15 June 2023

The Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly and the NSW Government entered into a formal Agreement in December 2018 to work in partnership to improve social housing outcomes for Aboriginal people in the Murdi Paaki Region.

RAHLA Meeting Overview

The RAHLA met on the 15th of June 2023, to discuss the progress of the Agreement. Items for discussion at this meeting included the Social Housing Agreement Aims & Objectives, RAHLA Business Case, RAHLA Annual Action Plan, Aboriginal Housing Office Update, Department of Communities and Justice Update, RAHLA Finances and the RAHLA Evaluation.

RAHLA Evaluation

The RAHLA have engaged the Centre for Aboriginal Policy Research (CAEPR) to conduct an evaluation of the management, achievements, relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the Murdi Paaki Regional Housing Business Consortium and the RAHLA Agreement. We believe CAEPR will be best placed to complete the evaluation as they have just completed Murdi Paaki LDM Evaluation and have a wider understanding of how the RAHLA and MPRA fit together. The project is due to commence in July 2023, with consultations taking place in late July and a final draft back to the RAHLA by September.

Alternative Energy Project

While the Building Efficiency Advisors were conducting education sessions with tenants across the Murdi Paaki Region, it was identified that 23 properties missed out on some of the energy saving measure for various reasons. The RAHLA approved for the energy efficiency measures to be installed on the 23 properties across Bourke, Broken Hill, Buronga, Dareton, Euston, Gulargambone, Lightning Ridge, Walgett and Wilcannia.

Tenant Support and Education Programme

The TSEP staff have continued community visits through the Murdi Paaki Region. TSEP continued supporting tenants mostly with housing applications though the Pathways Housing Application Process as the tenants are finding the application process difficult to navigate, TSEP have also been helping with rental arrears support. TSEP have mainly been referred to clients from the housing providers and some instances to Community Corrections.

Social Housing Agreement

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, David Harris has extended the Social Housing Agreement until 30 June 2024. The RAHLA will now focus on Finalising the Alternative Energy Project, Asset Preservation, Implementation of the RHEHP and the TSEP program among many other things over the next 12 months.

NEXT MEETING - 26th September 2023

