



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023 -2024

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Murdi Paaki Services Limited acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land of the Murdi Paaki Region and across Western NSW, and their elders past and present; we acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and contribution they make to the life of this region. May we work together to build a future based on compassion, justice, hope and reconciliation.

*First Nations people should be aware that this document may contain images or names of deceased person.*

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors make up the governing body of Murdi Paaki Services Limited.

The Directors have full authority over the corporation and are ultimately responsible for the management. The Directors and other officers must exercise their powers and carry out their duties in good faith in the best interests of the corporation. The Directors and other officers must exercise their powers and carry out their duties with reasonable care and diligence. The Directors, other officers and employees must not misuse their position, or use information obtained because of their position, to gain a benefit for themselves, someone else or to cause harm to the corporation. The Directors must tell each other their personal interests in matters relating to the affairs of the corporation.

The Directors must not allow their corporation to trade when it does not have enough money to pay its bills when they are due. Directors should always know the corporation's financial position. Only then can they be sure that their corporation is not trading while insolvent.



## CHAIRPERSON

### GRACE GORDON

Grace Gordon is a Ngemba Elder who has lived and worked in Brewarrina for most of her life. She has four children, ten grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren. Prior to her appointment as Chairperson of the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly, Grace was a dedicated Board member of Murdi Paaki Services Limited and Chairperson of Ngemba Community Working Party Brewarrina and MPRA delegate.

Grace has obtained a Bachelor of Social Science Welfare Studies from the University of Western Sydney. Certificate IV in Business Governance TAFE NSW. Besides being a mother, grandmother and great grandmother, Grace has held various positions in Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, CEO Brewarrina Aboriginal Health Service, Manager Ourgunya Women's Safehouse Brewarrina, Coordinator of Awabakal Aboriginal Medical Centre Newcastle, Community Engagement Officer Family Violence Education Aboriginal Corporation Dubbo. Aboriginal Community Consultant TAFENSW, Aboriginal Engagement Coordinator for TAFE NSW. Grace has been a director of many Aboriginal Organisations across NSW over many years. Grace also is a RAHLA and Accord Mark II rep. Grace is a strong advocate for social justice, equity and First Nation women and children's wellbeing.





## ANTHONY KNIGHT

Anthony Knight was born in Bourke, proud Barkindji/Kunja man who has resided in Weilmoringle for over 30 years. Anthony has been MPRA Community Working Party Chairperson of Weilmoringle and an MPRA delegate for over a decade now and was elected as a MPSL Board of Director in December 2021. He is also a member of the RAHLA and the Chairperson for the Weilmoringle Local Aboriginal Land Council. Anthony is a dedicated member of the community who likes to see his region benefiting. Anthony's grandfather was a voice for the Bourke community and Anthony is following in his footsteps.



## OLIVE "PAM" HANDY

Pam Handy was born in Brewarrina and moved to Dareton/Coomealla in 1965 and lived on 4 Reserves within Murdi Paaki Region. Pam attended the local schools in Bourke, Dareton, Robinvale and Wentworth, and left at the age of 15 in year 10 to help and assist her Mother with siblings while her Mother went to work to put food on the table and cloths on our backs, roof over our heads and then they both moved to other locations. They both attended the UTS University in Sydney as Mother & Daughter third in NSW as Aboriginal people, both graduated together in 1991. Pam worked alongside her mother since she was only 13 years old.

Pam built on the strength of her mother and stepped into her mother's shoes to have a VOICE in Cultural, Social, Economic in the communities across the Murdi Paaki Region for 53 years of working life. Pam's Mother became her Leader and a Role Model to her and she continued with Cultural Protocols, Cultural Values, Ethical, Justice, Hope and Reconciliation, establish those partnership and relationships through key responsibilities. Pam has been in position of the Wentworth/Dareton Community Working Party Chair for 6 years a Representative of MPRA, MPSL, RAHLA with the 16 Aboriginal Communities and been involved with various committees across the Murdi Paaki Region to build strength and capacity to work with Government together to build a future based of Justice, hope and reconciliation and of closing the gap in communities for our people.



## ALLAN COBB

Allan was born in Brewarrina and now resides in Lightning Ridge. He has been called a leader for his whole life: evident through his efforts in his local community and further afield. While the three-tier land council structure was in place, Allan sat on the board as a delegate of NSW Aboriginal Land Council and as Treasurer of the Regional Land Council. He sat on the Group 15 Rugby League committee as the Secretary-Treasurer for 10 years and spent eight years on the Lightning Ridge Redback Rugby League Committee in a similar role. He was Chairperson of the Board of Barriekneal Housing and Community Ltd for 10 years.

Allan is Chairperson and member of the North-West Land Trust, and continues his role as Chairperson of the Lightning Ridge LALC, Chairperson of Lightning Ridge AECG, Chairperson of the North West Regional Land Trust and Chairperson of Walanbaa Dhurruli Aboriginal Integrated Child and Family Centre (Lightning Ridge). Allan is currently a delegate to Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly and has been a Director of Murdi Paaki Services Limited since its inception in 2016.

## MPSL MEMBERSHIP

| Name                    | Community       | Ward       |
|-------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Allan Cobb              | Lightning Ridge | Wangkumara |
| Anna-Maree Scopel       | MPAYELP         | Wangkumara |
| Anthony Knight          | Weilmoringle    | Wangkumara |
| Carl Mason              | Collarenebri    | Wangkumara |
| Fay Elizabeth Johnstone | Ivanhoe         | Far West   |
| Garry Trindall          | Walgett         | Wangkumara |
| Grace Gordon            | Brewarrina      | Wangkumara |
| Jaharlyn Mitchell       | MPAYELP         | Far West   |
| Millie Shillingsworth   | Enngonia        | Wangkumara |
| Olive Pam Handy         | Wentworth       | Far West   |
| Xander Jeffery          | MPAYELP         | Wangkumara |

# ABOUT MPSL

Murdi Paaki Services Limited (MPSL) was established in 2016 by the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly (MPRA) to act as their operational arm with the objective to establish and sustain a resource base that would enable MPRA to play a role as effective leaders in transform Aboriginal affairs administration.

The MPRA is unincorporated and unable to enter contracts with governments or other Agencies, which is where MPSL is tasked to provide corporate support and act as chief negotiator as they have the capacity to undertake policy-relevant research, support its constituent Community Working Parties (CWPs) and control entity with the capacity to enter into contracts and auspice funding, programs and services. Over the past 12 months, MPSL has had the privilege of supporting the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly and Community Working Parties.

MPSL is wholly owned by Regional Assembly, governed by a Board comprising Regional Assembly members. MPSL is the operating arm of Regional Assembly, which gives MPRA a means of entering into legally binding agreements and provides executive support for MPRA and MPRA Chairperson.

MPSL is functions for and in relation to Aboriginal people and communities in the Murdi Paaki Region by:

- Taking responsibility for driving change at a regional level.
- Undertaking strategic activities that underpin, promote and progress political, cultural, economic, and social wellbeing of Aboriginal communities through facilitating development and progressive delivery of the Regional Plan and other strategic plans.
- Fostering relationships with all tiers of government to contribute knowledge and guidance in service planning, design, delivery, and evaluation.
- Undertaking a secretariat and co-ordination role in major projects; initially, for the Regional Aboriginal Housing Leadership Assembly, then for other major Regional Plan initiatives as they rollout.
- Applying for, negotiating and receiving funding for priority projects of regional significance, including taking responsibility for managing flexible funding pools.
- Liaison and co-ordination with CWPs, including supporting CWPs to put into operation their own plans.
- Conduct social and economic research and evaluation relevant to the Murdi Paaki Region, prepare regional policy and planning documents, and build the evidence-base.
- Pull together disconnected external projects consistent with the Regional Plan to add value to such projects and enhance prospects of achieving the aspirations of our Region and communities.

Murdi Paaki Services Limited (MPSL) has continued to be successful in receiving grants for community and auspicing numerous grants throughout the Murdi Paaki Region.



With the resignation of the previous Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly (MPRA) Independent Chairperson, Grace Gordon was the successful applicant and appointed the MPRA Independent Chairperson in September 2023. Grace was the Brewarrina Community Working Party Chairperson for over 8 years prior to being appointed.

2024 marked 20-year anniversary of the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly. On 20 June 2024, the MPRA held celebrations in Cobar to mark the huge milestone with stakeholders from the past and present. While the MPRA celebrated 20 years we also acknowledged the work of the Community Working Parties well before the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly was established when we were recognised during the ATSIC days. MPSL supported and funded the celebrations to promote the 20 years of the MPRA representing the interests and community-led governance of 16 communities across the Murdi Paaki Region.

MPSL and MPRA operations are funded under Culture and Capability Programme of the Indigenous Advancement Strategy from the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA). MPSL has continued to provide 6 monthly progress reports, provide an audit of NIAA accounts, complete site visits and statement of compliances to NIAA. Following by holding our Annual General Meeting and completing our reporting to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

During the course of the year, the funding agreement with Aboriginal Affairs NSW (AANSW) under the Local Decision-Making Framework lapsed due to AANSW not providing a schedule for 1 July to 31 December 2023 until December 2023 which meant that the funding use to support the operations for the Community Working Parties (CWP) was not provided due to MPRA not having the opportunity to negotiate the schedule with AANSW. MPSL stepped up and continued to fund the CWP operations to ensure continuity.

MPSL and MPRA will undertake a Finance Review and Governance Review with AANSW and NIAA in the next financial year. We would like to thank our funding body, the National Indigenous Australians Agency for their ongoing support throughout the 2023/2024 period.





# MPRA

MPSL continued to support the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly continue to meet on a quarterly basis which gives the CWP chairs the opportunity to give updates on priorities for their communities and any assistance they may need. The MPRA with the support of MPSL continue to monitor the functionality of each CWP and conduct CWP refreshes where needed. MPSL Staff continue to support each CWP Chairperson with the planning of CWP meetings and provide secretary support where needed.

In November 2023 the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly undertook a two-day governance training in Cobar, this was conducted by Indigenous Corporate Partners (ICP). Over the two days the members went over the organisational structure of MPSL and MPRA, they looked over the MPRA Governance handbook and Charter of Governance. At the Governance training it was decided by the MPRA members that they would like to condense the Governance Handbook and Charter of Governance into one easy to use document. Following this MPRA, ICP and MPSL worked together to condense the governance documents and to update and create policies such as the Code of Conduct Policy, Engagement Policy, Complaints and feedback Policy amongst many others.

2024 marks 20 years of the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly. On 20 June 2024 the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly held celebrations in Cobar to mark the huge milestone. While the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly is celebrating 20 years we also acknowledge the work of the Community Working Parties well before the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly was established when we were recognised during the ATSIC days. During the celebrations we had presentations on where the Assembly has come from, where we are at now and the success of the Community Working Parties. It was great to see a lot of community members from our 16 communities attend along with representatives from Government and Non-Government agencies such as NIAA, AANSW, Treasury, AHO CEO and NSW Health.



### **Regional Plan**

The Murdi Paaki Regional Plan was due to be updated in 2021 however the MPRA decided that they would hold off on updating the Regional Plan so that the most current census data could be used, and the plan wouldn't be outdated before it was released. MPSL has worked closely with Burs Aldis to develop the Murdi Paaki Regional Plan 2023 which includes priorities discussed at the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly Meetings and priorities directly from community. The 2023 Regional Plan is now aimed at achievable and measurable outcomes.

The sectors of strategic focus in the 2023 Regional Plan are, Governance & Leadership, Early Childhood, education, Economic Development, Housing & Infrastructure, Law & Justice and Health, Wellbeing & Human Services. MPSL continue to drive and focus on the priorities in the Murdi Paaki Regional Plan 2023.

### **Accord Mark II**

While this year proved to be a challenging year for the progression of the Murdi Paaki Accord MKII Schedules we have continued to work with the leads of each schedule to progress and complete the schedules as soon as possible. MPSL are working with the leads of Economic Development, Health and Early Childhood to have their schedules reviewed and endorsed. Education and Law & Justice Schedules are complete and endorsed by the MPRA and the leads. The next step will be for MPSL to work closely with the NSW Government agencies and MPRA to develop implementation plans for the schedules to be signed off by the relevant Government signatories and MPRA Independent Chairperson.

### **CAEPR Evaluation**

In December, the MPRA signed off the OCHRE Local Decision-Making Stage 2 Evaluation Report. This evaluation provided a moment for reflection in our continuous journey towards Aboriginal empowerment and self-determination. The MPRA highlighted that the past three years have posed significant challenges, notably the COVID-19 pandemic and the shifts in government priorities that followed the signing of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. These have led to an unfortunate overshadowing and near abandonment of the LDM initiative.

The Assembly has tasked MPSL to commence the implementation of recommendations for the Regional Assembly. Part of the recommendations from the report were for the MPRA and CWP to be more transparent and to provide more information back to their local communities. From this MPSL have developed a suite of documents that better give an overview of the structure of the CWP, MPRA, MPSL and the RAHLA.

### **Community Support**

Over the past 12 months MPSL has continued to support the CWP through finding and auspicing funds for community initiatives as determined by the local community. Staff have continued to support CWP to update and review the Community Action Plans, attend CWP as requested and help CWP Chairpersons call meetings and invite Government and non-Government agencies along to their meetings. MPSL have supported the CWP Chairperson to call meetings in their community where MPSL have been presented to give an overview of the structure, current initiatives of the MPRA and provide a space for CWP members to ask questions. These meetings have proven quite valuable and have given an opportunity for CWP to identify current priorities of their community.

### **Young Leaders**

The Murdi Paaki Young & Emerging Leaders Forum was held on 1st and 2nd of November 2023 in Cobar where we had Young Leaders from across the Murdi Paaki Region attend the two-day forum. The forum has proven as a great way to build increased capacity and confidence in localised governance, collaboratively develop a future focused view, facilitate the development of strong partnerships and informed decision making, provide skills development workshops for emerging leaders on topics such as skills in business and strategic planning, negotiation, leadership, emotional intelligence, and self-reflection and also provided networking opportunities for the Young and Emerging Leaders. The Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly is currently working on the structure of the Murdi Paaki Young and Emerging Leaders Program and hope to have the program back bigger and better in the latter half of 2024.





# POLICY INFLUENCE

Over the course of this period, MPRA had the opportunity to work on co-design projects with the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) and the Aboriginal Housing Office (AHO).

## **Staying Home Leaving Violence (SHLV)**

DCJ engaged MPRA to co-design a culturally safe Staying Home Leaving Violence (SHLV) program for future roll out in specific remote LGAs with high Aboriginal populations. SHLV is a specialist domestic and family violence (DFV) service that supports women and children to remain safely in their home, or a home of their choice, after leaving a violent relationship. SHLV delivers intensive case management, which is long-term, needs based and integrated with key agencies such as housing providers, health services, police, court services and other local agencies that support families affected by DFV. The SHLV model has been co-designed with the MPRA. The co-design process was informed by a comprehensive literature review undertaken to help us to better understand and respond to domestic and family violence (DFV) in Aboriginal communities, and interviews with MPRA and CWP Delegates.

The final model was provided to DCJ on 8 April 2024. DCJ announced that they would pilot the SHLV in Bourke.

## **Broken Hill Transitional House**

The Aboriginal Housing Office (AHO) owns the house with the intent for Murdi Paaki Regional Housing to manage the property subject to board approval. This is a 5-bedroom house with 3 bathrooms.

Through research, community consultation, the development of the Broken Hill Housing and Environmental Health Plan. It was established that the Transitional House should focus on:

- Situation of men (especially) in relation to bail;
- Way men are discharged from the Broken Hill Correctional Centre;
- Nexus between imprisonment and obtaining and/or keeping rental housing.

Since March, AHO along with MPSL and Murdi Paaki Housing have held two workshops with Stakeholders from Broken Hill to develop operational running of the Broken Hill Transitional House.

The Case Management for the service will be the Community Restorative Centre (CRC) and Murdi Paaki Housing manage the property. The outline of the operation running of the Transitional House was endorsed by the Broken Hill Community Working Party in June. It is anticipated the transitional home will be operational in early 2025.

## **Specialist Homelessness Services Review**

MPSL and MPRA in partnership with DCJ worked closely together to investigate and address homelessness including evaluating outcomes achieved by Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) in the Murdi Paaki Region.

This review included analysis of data and consultations held with Service Providers and the Tennant Support Education Program (TSEP) to collate the report. The report describes findings, incorporating a comprehensive, evidence-based appreciation of the impact of homelessness in the Region on the Aboriginal community, and the characterises of the service landscape, from the perspective of TSEP, including client case studies and experiences with mainstream SHSs as narrated by TSEP personnel. The report has responses to the current situation which could build on an expanded role for TSEP in direct delivery and brokerage of specialist homelessness and related wrap-around services.



# REGIONAL ABORIGINAL HOUSING LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY

## **Social Housing Agreement**

The Social Housing Accord is an agreement between the MPRA and the NSW Government that developed the Regional Aboriginal Housing Leadership Assembly (RAHLA). The RAHLA consists of four Government Representatives from Regional NSW, NSW Treasury, Aboriginal Housing Office and Department of Communities and Justice and four MPRA Representatives.

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, David Harris extended the Social Housing Agreement until 30 June 2025. Over the next year, RAHLA will focus on the following projects:

- Asset Preservation: Data Acquisition and Management
- Continuation of the implementation of the Co-Design Milestones
- The development of priority policies and procedures, and their inclusion in the co-design process
- Action on priority projects identified in community HEHPs, in the RHEHP, and the Murdi Paaki Regional Housing and Environmental Business Case
- Remodelling of human services delivery with early investment in infrastructure upgrades
- Provide direct feedback to the NSW Government on related matters which affect the Aboriginal population of the Region
- Implementation of the Regional Housing and Environmental Health Plan (RHEHP)
- Tenant Support and Education Program
- Lead the evaluation of the RAHLA and Social Housing Agreement

Over the past year period the RAHLA:

- Commenced discussions to reclassify Murdi Paaki Region as very remote and advocating for the Regional to have their own Remote Housing Strategy.
- Worked alongside DCJ to look at tenancy management services, housing eligibility, application and allocation policies and procedures and how they affect Aboriginal peoples in the Murdi Paaki Region.
- Supported the MPRA with the Staying Home Leaving Violence Co-design Project.
- Development of Asset Management system

### **Murdi Paaki Aboriginal Housing – Remote Housing Strategy**

The RAHLA in partnership with the Aboriginal Housing Office submitted a proposal for a Murdi Paaki Aboriginal Housing – Remote Housing Strategy for the NSW Government to consider in early 2024.

The Business Case was requesting \$73.4 mil over 4 years to directly support:

- Delivery of urgent repairs & maintenance for over 940 homes addressing homelessness, safety issues and crowding in the Murdi Paaki Region.
- Aboriginal training and employment opportunities for up to 100 Aboriginal community members in building and construction-related trades. In the longer term this will form the basis for a more cost effective and localised service delivery model with an embedded Building and Construction Unit (BCU) to operate as a key Aboriginal service provider for the Region.
- NSW Government's Closing the Gap (CTG) commitments under CTG Outcome 9 (Housing) and Outcome 8 (Strong economic participation and development of Aboriginal people and community).
- Improved health and well-being outcomes associated with better living. Recent research has identified that more than 30% of houses in remote NSW require moderate repairs, which include repairs to address serious safety concerns.
- The development of a Remote Housing Strategy that will build on the successful partnership between the Murdi Paaki Aboriginal community and NSW Government through the Murdi Paaki Regional Aboriginal Housing Leadership Assembly (RAHLA).
- Evidence based and localised solutions to address long standing remote housing issues. This includes:
  - Viability of Local Aboriginal Land Councils (reduced maintenance costs, increase in rent paying culture, efficiencies across the region, etc).
  - Improved remote economies and policy settings to direct benefit remote Aboriginal communities.

In June 2024, it was announced that the Business Case was approved by the NSW Government. This marked a huge celebration and accomplishment for the MPRA and Murdi Paaki Region.

### **Asset Preservation Project**

The RAHLA Asset Preservation: Data Acquisition and Management projects aim is to establish a common Region-wide, fully integrated and digitised, asset database with the objective of creating an Asset Register, consistent across the Region, from which asset management plans can be prepared, repair and maintenance scheduled, and capital and operational expenditures forecast in the short, medium and long term.

This project is Phase 1 of a strategy which aimed to bring together details of all Murdi Paaki Aboriginal social housing onto one common database. Phase 1 commenced in December in the far west communities of Broken Hill, Ivanhoe, Wilcannia and Menindee. Phase 2 commenced in early 2024 in Wentworth/Dareton.

### **RAHLA Evaluation**

RAHLA engaged the Centre for Indigenous Policy Research (CIPR) formally the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) to undertake the evaluation of the management, achievements, relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the MPRHBC project and the RAHLA Agreement in meeting the stated objectives and the degree to which efforts have contributed and continue to contribute to improving the management of the Aboriginal social housing sector across the Region.

### **Tenant Support and Education Program**

The Tenant Support and Education Program (TSEP) have continued to community visits throughout the Murdi Paaki Region. Housing Pathways application support and housing transfers have been a core function of the support TSEP provided. Referrals for this support have been through Aboriginal Community Housing Providers and self-referrals. This continues to emphasise the need for more housing throughout the region. MSPL secured an additional 4 years of funding for the Tenant Support and Education Program from Homes NSW, thanks to the continue advocacy of the MPRA.



# FINANCE REPORT

Murdi Paaki Services Limited

ABN 55 614 474 118

## **Independent Audit Report**

Independent Auditors Report to the members of the Murdi Paaki Services Ltd

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Murdi Paaki Services Ltd, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the director's declaration.

In our opinion, the financial report of Murdi Paaki Services Ltd has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of Murdi Paaki Services Ltd.'s financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
- b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 2, and Division 60 the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

### Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of Murdi Paaki Services Ltd in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Corporations Act 2001*, which has been given to the directors of the Murdi Paaki Services Ltd, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.



## Responsibility of the directors for the financial report

The directors of the Murdi Paaki Services Ltd are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act) and the needs of the members. The directors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing Murdi Paaki Services Ltd's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate Murdi Paaki Services Ltd or to cease operations or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is

located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at:

<<http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>>. This description forms part of our auditor's report. We communicate with directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings.



Anthony Conolan  
Registered Company Auditor 226482  
AJC Audit Services

Dated : 23 / 9 /2024

## **Murdi Paaki Services Limited**

**ABN 55 614 474 118**

### **Directors' Report**

#### **For the Year ended 30 June 2024**

The directors present their report together with the financial report of Murdi Paaki Services Limited ("the Company"), for the financial year ended 30 June 2024 and the auditor's report thereon.

#### **Directors**

The following persons were directors of the Company during the whole of the financial year and up to the date of this report:

- Des Jones (Board Chairman – resigned 2 September 2023)
- Allan Cobb
- Grace Gordon (Board Chairman – appointed 17 October 2023)
- Olive Pam Handy
- Anthony Knight

#### **Board meetings**

There were 12 Board meetings held during the year. The number of meetings attended by each Board member is as follows:

- |                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| - Des Jones       | 1/4   |
| - Allan Cobb      | 12/12 |
| - Grace Gordon    | 12/12 |
| - Olive Pam Handy | 10/12 |
| - Anthony Knight  | 12/12 |

There are no Board committees.

#### **Principal Activities**

The principal activities of the Company during the financial year were the provision of services targeted towards Aboriginal persons in the Murdi Paaki region in north western New South Wales. There were no changes in the nature of the activities during the year.

### Review of Operations

The Company recorded a surplus for the year of \$24,279 (2023: \$150,108).

### Significant Changes in the State of Affairs

There were no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Company during the year.

### Distributions

The Rules of the Company do not allow any distributions to be made to its members and none were made during the financial year (2023: \$nil).

### Future Developments

The company is expected to continue to provide operating services to support the activities and interests of the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly in subsequent financial years subject to the continuation of government grants for its operations.

The expected results of those operations in subsequent years is dependent upon the level of funding from government grants.

### Matters Subsequent to the End of the Financial Year

No matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2024 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect:

- (a) the Company's operations in future financial years; or
- (b) the results of those operations in future financial years; or
- (c) the Company's state of affairs in future financial years.

### Directors' Benefits

Since the end of the previous financial year, no director has received or become entitled to receive a benefit by reason of a contract made by the company with a director or with a company of which any director is a member or with a company in which any director has any substantial financial interest. Company is not subject to significant environmental regulations.



G Gordon

Board Chairman

20 / 11 /2024

**Murdi Paaki Services Limited**

**ABN 55 614 474 118**

**Auditor's Independence Declaration**

**Under Section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not For Profits  
Commission Act 2012**

To the Members of Murdi Paaki Services Ltd

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30  
June 2024, there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the independence requirements of the Australian Charities and  
Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the review.

Anthony Conolan CPA

Registered Company Auditor226482  
AJC Audit Services



Dated: 18 / 9 /2024

Murdi Paaki Services Limited  
ABN 55 614 474 118  
Statement of Financial Position  
As At 30 June 2024

|   | Notes | 2024<br>\$       | 2023<br>\$       |
|---|-------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                     |       |                  |                  |
| Cash                                      | 2     | 3,682,562        | 5,752,430        |
| Trade and other receivables               | 3     | 25,630           | 161,685          |
| Other current assets                      | 4     | 24,847           | 27,973           |
| <b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>               |       | <b>3,733,039</b> | <b>5,942,088</b> |
| <b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>                 |       |                  |                  |
| Property, plant and equipment             | 5     | 306,531          | 291,610          |
| <b>TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>           |       | <b>306,531</b>   | <b>291,610</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                       |       | <b>4,039,570</b> | <b>6,233,698</b> |
| <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>                |       |                  |                  |
| Trade and other payables                  | 6     | 3,034,005        | 5,400,968        |
| Unexpended surplus                        |       | 150,980          | -                |
| Short term provisions                     | 7     | 189,013          | 191,437          |
| <b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>          |       | <b>3,373,998</b> | <b>5,592,405</b> |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>                  |       | <b>3,373,998</b> | <b>5,592,405</b> |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                         |       | <b>665,572</b>   | <b>641,293</b>   |
| <b>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS</b>                |       |                  |                  |
| Accumulated surplus                       |       | 665,572          | 641,293          |
| <b>CLOSING ACCUMULATED MEMBERS' FUNDS</b> |       | <b>665,572</b>   | <b>641,293</b>   |

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements



Murdi Paaki Services Limited  
ABN 55 614 474 118  
Statement of Comprehensive Income  
For The Year ended 30 June 2024

|   | Notes | 2024<br>\$       | 2023<br>\$       |
|---|-------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>REVENUE FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS</b>       |       |                  |                  |
| Grant revenue                                   | 8     | 1,041,496        | 1,157,766        |
| Other income                                    |       | 546,829          | 395,006          |
| Bank interest                                   |       | 12,082           | 9,624            |
| <b>Total Revenue from Continuing Operations</b> |       | <b>1,600,407</b> | <b>1,562,396</b> |
| Less: Expenditure                               | 9     | (1,576,128)      | (1,460,413)      |
| <b>Net Surplus from Operations</b>              |       | <b>24,279</b>    | <b>101,983</b>   |
| Net gain on disposal of assets                  |       | -                | 48,125           |
| <b>NET SURPLUS</b>                              |       | <b>24,279</b>    | <b>150,108</b>   |
| Other comprehensive income                      |       | -                | -                |
| <b>Total Comprehensive Income</b>               |       | <b>24,279</b>    | <b>150,108</b>   |

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements

Murdi Paaki Services Limited  
ABN 55 614 474 118  
Statement of Changes in Equity  
For The Year ended 30 June 2024

|  | 2024<br>\$            | 2023<br>\$            |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Accumulated surplus at the beginning of the financial year         | 641,293               | 491,185               |
| Impact of adoption of new accounting standards                     | -                     | -                     |
| Net surplus / (deficit) for the year                               | 24,279                | 150,108               |
| Other comprehensive income   | <u>-</u>              | <u>-</u>              |
| <b>ACCUMULATED MEMBERS' FUNDS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR</b> | <u><u>665,572</u></u> | <u><u>641,293</u></u> |

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements

Murdi Paaki Services Limited  
ABN 55 614 474 118  
Statement of Cash Flows  
For The Year ended 30 June 2024

|  | Notes | 2024<br>\$         | 2023<br>\$         |
|--|-------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>                                  |       |                    |                    |
| <b>Inflows / (Outflows)</b>  |       |                    |                    |
| Receipts from funding providers and customers<br>( <i>inclusive of GST</i> ) |       | 1,858,553          | 1,733,152          |
| Payments to suppliers and employees ( <i>inclusive of GST</i> )              |       | (3,829,873)        | (3,682,165)        |
| Interest received  |       | 12,082             | 42,397             |
| Sundry income received   |       | <u>-</u>           | <u>-</u>           |
| <b>NET CASH FLOWS (OUTFLOWS) FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>                   | 11    | <u>(1,959,238)</u> | <u>(1,511,610)</u> |
| <b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>                                  |       |                    |                    |
| Payments for property, plant and equipment                                   | 5     | (110,630)          | -                  |
| Proceeds from sale of financial assets                                       |       | <u>-</u>           | <u>54,090</u>      |
| <b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>                              |       | <u>(110,630)</u>   | <u>54,090</u>      |
| <b>NET INCREASE / (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS HELD</b>           |       |                    |                    |
|  |       | (2,069,868)        | (1,457,520)        |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year             |       | <u>5,752,430</u>   | <u>7,209,950</u>   |
| <b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR</b>            | 2     | <u>3,682,562</u>   | <u>5,752,430</u>   |

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements

Murdi Paaki Services Limited

ABN 55 614 474 118

## **Notes To and Forming Part of These Financial Statements**

### **1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

The financial statements cover Murdi Paaki Services Limited as an individual company, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. Murdi Paaki Services Limited (the Company) is a company limited by guarantee registered under the Corporations Act 2001 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (the Acts).

#### **(a) Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements**

In the directors' opinion, the Company is not a reporting Company because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial reports.

The company is a not-for-profit entity. The directors have determined that the company is not a reporting entity and accordingly, the special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the mandatory Australian Accounting Standards applicable to companies reporting under the Corporations Act 2001 and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2013 and the significant policies disclosed below, which the directors have determined are appropriate to meet the needs of members.

Such accounting policies are consistent with those of previous periods unless stated otherwise. The financial report has been prepared on an accrual basis and under the historical cost convention, except for certain assets, which as noted, have been written down to fair value as a result of impairment. Unless otherwise stated, the accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the prior year. The preparation of the financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the company's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements, are disclosed in the relevant notes.

The accounting policies that have been adopted in the preparation of the statements are as follows:



Murdi Paaki Services Limited

ABN 55 614 474 118

Notes To and Forming Part of These Financial Statements

(b) Property, Plant and Equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Property

Freehold land and buildings are measured on a cost basis.

Plant and Equipment

Plant and equipment is measured on a cost basis less depreciation and impairment losses. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the assets' employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to their present values in determining recoverable amounts. Plant and equipment costing less than \$5,000, except computer equipment, is expensed in the year of acquisition.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, including buildings and capitalised leased assets, but excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives to the Company commencing from the time asset is held ready for use.

The depreciation rates for each class of depreciable assets are:

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Plant and equipment | 10% |
| Motor vehicles      | 20% |

The residual value and useful lives of property, plant and equipment, other than freehold land, are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each reporting period.

(c) Employee Entitlements

Provisions for employee entitlements at balance date are recognized as they accrue, and it is probable there will be an outflow of funds which can be reliably measured. Contributions are made to employee superannuation funds and are charged as expenses when incurred.

Murdi Paaki Services Limited  
ABN 55 614 474 118  
Notes To and Forming Part of These Financial Statements

(d) Goods and Services Tax

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense. Receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as a current asset or liability in the statement of financial position. Cash flows are included in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are classified as operating cash flows.

**Murdi Paaki Services Limited**

**ABN 55 614 474 118**

**Notes To and Forming Part of These Financial Statements**

**1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

**(e) Income Tax**

The Australian Taxation Office recognises that the Company is a public benevolent institution and, as such, is exempt from income tax.

**2. Cash**

|                              | <b>2024</b>      | <b>2023</b>      |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                              | <b>\$</b>        | <b>\$</b>        |
| MPS - Debit Card             | 345              | 4,197            |
| MPS - Business Saver Account | 1,078,005        | 918,303          |
| MPS – Operating Account      | 14,502           | 12,749           |
| RAHLA – Debit Card           | 1,757            | -                |
| RAHLA – Online Saver Account | 2,586,732        | 4,779,126        |
| RAHLA – Operating Account    | 1,221            | 38,055           |
|                              | <u>3,682,562</u> | <u>5,752,430</u> |

**3. Trade and other receivables**

|                | <b>2024</b>   | <b>2023</b>    |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|
|                | <b>\$</b>     | <b>\$</b>      |
| Trade Debtors  | 10,149        | 33,542         |
| Sundry Debtors | 15,481        | 31,688         |
| GST Control    | -             | 167,447        |
|                | <u>25,630</u> | <u>232,677</u> |

**4. Other current assets**

|             | <b>2024</b>   | <b>2023</b>   |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|
|             | <b>\$</b>     | <b>\$</b>     |
| Prepayments | 24,847        | 20,852        |
|             | <u>24,847</u> | <u>20,852</u> |

## 5. Property, Plant and Equipment

|                                | Freehold<br>land<br>\$ | Plant &<br>equipment<br>\$ | Total<br>\$ |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| <b>At 30 June 2023</b>         |                        |                            |             |
| Cost                           | 84,350                 | 376,044                    | 460,394     |
| Accumulated depreciation       | -                      | (168,784)                  | (168,784)   |
| Net book value                 | 84,350                 | 207,260                    | 291,610     |
| <b>Year ended 30 June 2024</b> |                        |                            |             |
| Opening net book value         | 84,350                 | 207,260                    | 291,610     |
| Additions                      | -                      | 110,630                    | 110,630     |
| Disposals                      | -                      | -                          | -           |
| Depreciation charge            | -                      | (95,709)                   | (95,709)    |
| Closing net book value         | 84,350                 | 222,181                    | 306,531     |
| <b>At 30 June 2024</b>         |                        |                            |             |
| Cost                           | 84,350                 | 486,674                    | 571,024     |
| Accumulated depreciation       | -                      | (264,493)                  | (264,493)   |
| Net book value                 | 84,350                 | 222,181                    | 306,531     |

## 6. Trade and other payables

|                             | 2024<br>\$ | 2023<br>\$ |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|
| Trade Creditors             | 25,885     | 19,722     |
| Accruals                    | 416,895    | 119,836    |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Funds | 2,591,225  | 5,144,649  |
| GST Control                 | -          | 116,761    |
|                             | 3,034,005  | 7,243,857  |

## 7. Short term provisions

|                            | 2024<br>\$ | 2023<br>\$ |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|
| Provision for Annual Leave | 145,536    | 107,252    |
| Superannuation Payable     | 43,477     | 13,742     |
|                            | 189,013    | 120,994    |



**Murdi Paaki Services Limited****ABN 55 614 474 118****Notes To and Forming Part of These Financial Statements**

|                                   | <b>2024</b>      | <b>2023</b>      |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                                   | <b>\$</b>        | <b>\$</b>        |
| <b>8. Grant Revenue</b>           |                  |                  |
| Operational grant - NIAA          | 1,192,476        | 1,157,766        |
| Other grants                      | -                | -                |
|                                   | <hr/>            | <hr/>            |
| Total grants received             | 1,192,476        | 1,157,766        |
| Prior year unexpended grants      | -                | -                |
| Unexpended grants carried forward | (150,980)        | -                |
|                                   | <hr/>            | <hr/>            |
| <b>GRANT REVENUE FOR THE YEAR</b> | <b>1,041,496</b> | <b>1,062,683</b> |
|                                   | <hr/>            | <hr/>            |
| <b>9. Expenditure</b>             |                  |                  |
| Audit fees                        | 12,000           | 10,800           |
| Auditors – other services         | 850              | 1,701            |
| Community engagement              | 129,529          | 51,849           |
| Computer support                  | 15,827           | 10,139           |
| Consultants' fees                 | 214,750          | -                |
| Depreciation                      | 95,709           | 94,980           |
| Directors' meeting expenses       | 29,998           | 29,135           |
| Insurance                         | 11,678           | 7,936            |
| Legal expenses                    | 54,486           | 4,097            |
| Meeting expenses - Assembly       | 70,832           | 53,386           |
| Miscellaneous expenses            | 2,045            | 4,669            |
| Motor vehicle expenses            | 47,895           | 45,819           |
| Office running costs              | 41,814           | 29,298           |
| Postage & stationery              | 4,345            | 5,306            |
| Repairs & maintenance             | 13,605           | 50,580           |
| Salaries & wages and on-costs     | 730,337          | 914,421          |
| Staff costs                       | 4,175            | 9,760            |
| Telephone expenses                | 9,053            | 7,722            |
| Travel, accommodation & meetings  | 87,200           | 128,816          |
|                                   | <hr/>            | <hr/>            |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>          | <b>1,576,128</b> | <b>1,460,414</b> |
|                                   | <hr/>            | <hr/>            |

**Murdi Paaki Services Limited**

**ABN 55 614 474 118**

**Notes To and Forming Part of These Financial Statements**

|                                     | <b>2024</b>   | <b>2023</b>   |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                     | <b>\$</b>     | <b>\$</b>     |
| <b>10. Remuneration of Auditors</b> |               |               |
| <b>(a) Audit services</b>           |               |               |
| Gardiner Hall                       | 12,000        | 10,800        |
|                                     | <u>12,000</u> | <u>10,800</u> |
| <b>(b) Non-audit services</b>       |               |               |
| Gardiner Hall                       | 850           | 1,701         |

**(b) Cash Flow Information**

**Reconciliation of net cash flows from operating activities to operating surplus / (deficit)**

|   | <b>2024</b>        | <b>2023</b>        |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
|   | <b>\$</b>          | <b>\$</b>          |
| <b>Operating surplus</b>                          | 24,279             | 50,108             |
| Depreciation                                      | 95,709             | 94,980             |
| Net (profit) / loss on disposal of assets         | -                  | (48,125)           |
| Increase / (decrease) in unexpended grants        | 150,980            | -                  |
| Decrease / (increase) in trade and other debtors  | 139,181            | 63,871             |
| Increase / (decrease) in trade and other payables | 186,461            | (1,618,199)        |
| Increase / (decrease) in Auspice funds held       | (2,553,095)        | (224,688)          |
| Increase / (decrease) in provisions               | (2,753)            | 70,443             |
| <b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>   | <b>(1,959,238)</b> | <b>(1,511,610)</b> |

## Murdi Paaki Services Limited

ABN 55 614 474 118

### Notes To and Forming Part of These Financial Statements

#### (c) Company Limited by Guarantee

The Company is limited by guarantee with the liability of the members limited to the amount of \$1 as set out in the Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Membership numbers as at the date of this report were 11

#### (d) 3rd Party Funds

Of the cash balance of \$3,682,562 as at balance date, \$2,742,205 represents funding received from funding bodies in respect of various programs. These funds are committed for expenditure in accordance with the terms and conditions of the funding agreements.

#### (e) Economic Dependency

The company is dependent upon grants from various government departments as described in Note 13 for its operations. The company operates in the Murdi Paaki region of north-western New South Wales

#### (f) Auspice Grants

The company receives grant funds from various agencies and departments including Commonwealth National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), NSW Department Communities & Justice (DCJ), NSW Department Planning & Environment (DPE), NSW Department Premier & Cabinet, Aboriginal Affairs (DAA), and others to assist the administration of Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly (MPRA) and the activities of the Regional Aboriginal Housing Leadership Assembly (RAHLA). The company acts as banker for these funds, decisions concerning the expenditure of the grant funds rests with MPRA.

## **Murdi Paaki Services Limited**

**ABN 55 614 474 118**

### **Directors' Declaration**

The directors have determined that the company is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The directors of the company declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 10 to 17, are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012 and:
  - a. comply with Australian Accounting Standards; and
  - b. give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of the company.
2. In the directors' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the directors dated 17th October 2024.



Grace Gordon  
Board Chairman

Dated this 20th day of November 2024



## CONTACT DETAILS

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