

COMMITMENT AGREEMENT FOR LOCAL DECISION MAKING

Made by the **NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT (NTG)** for the benefit of the **Apmwerre Aboriginal Corporation (AAC)** ICN 302.

1. BACKGROUND

- (a) Local Decision Making (**LDM**) is a 10-year plan that seeks to return local decision making to Aboriginal communities by empowering Aboriginal people to determine service delivery models that work best for their community and region.
- (b) LDM is underpinned by the principle of self-determination for Aboriginal communities and seeks to transition services and programs to community control.
- (c) The NTG is developing and implementing the LDM Framework to deliver and support LDM, which consists of the LDM Policy, Operational Guidelines and Tools and Templates.
- (d) The Community representatives have the support of the Community to work with the NTG to progress LDM priorities.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this agreement is to:

- (a) Document the commitment by the NTG, and the AAC to work together to guide the development and implementation of LDM; and
- (b) More formally identify the services which the AAC wish to have more control over and have relevant NTG agencies commit to sharing information with the AAC so as to decide how this control and involvement might be achieved.

3. COMMITMENT

- (a) The NTG is committed to partnering with Aboriginal communities in a meaningful way to determine the shape and control in service delivery areas such as housing, education and training pathways, youth services, economic development and environmental management to deliver healthy country, strong in culture, and a thriving community, as set out in the LDM Framework.
- (b) The development of a more detailed LDM Heads of Agreement and its overall implementation will be driven by AAC at their pace.
- (c) The NTG and AAC will work together on the basis of the LDM guiding principles, which are self-determination, place-based, flexible, co-design and community control.
- (d) Initial priorities for the development of the AAC Local Decision-Making Agreement will be based on the already identified services outlined in The AAC Community Development Plan.
- (e) The LDM set of principles align with the Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory (APO NT) Partnership Principles released in October 2013.

4. PROCESS

- (a) The Senior Executive Director from the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet (CM&C) with the NTG Regional Coordination Committee will coordinate the progression of this agreement.
- (b) The AAC Committee members, elected community members, CM&C Senior Executive Director and Regional Project Officer will meet regularly to oversee the progress of the agreement between government and AAC.
- (c) NTG agencies relevant to a nominated service delivery area will nominate representatives with appropriate decision-making authority, who will attend and actively participate in meetings with CM&C and the AAC.
- (d) CM&C and AAC will nominate appropriately authorised and informed representatives who will attend and actively participate in meetings, provide a meeting space and will ensure processes are in place to regularly report to, and receive feedback from, interested parties within AAC.
- (e) The representatives will report back to the NTG with honest and direct feedback about progress and issues raised by the Apmwerre (Black Tank Bore) Community.
- (f) The NTG and AAC representatives will identify a service delivery area or areas they would like to progress negotiations for locally based decisions about service delivery.
- (g) To ensure currency of the relationship between NTG and AAC, this Agreement ends when a more detailed Heads of Agreement is entered into, or three years from date of signing. If there are service delivery areas that have not been sufficiently considered for community control or new service areas of interest, a new agreement should be negotiated with relevant NTG agencies, three months prior to the Agreement end date.
- (h) The NTG, CM&C and AAC Community will, as far as possible, share information and data, including financial information, to inform the process and to allow fully informed and transparent decision making, subject to confidentiality and privacy requirements.
- (i) The NTG and AAC will actively engage with other relevant Federal Government agencies to encourage a broader whole of service delivery approach across remote service delivery and community development.
- (j) All parties acknowledge there will be other major stakeholders and agencies identified in the LDM agreement process once service responsibilities are recognised, these stakeholders and agencies will need to be noted in the LDM agreement as a partner.

5. MAINTAINING THE PARTNERSHIP

- (a) The NTG and AAC will collaborate and negotiate respectfully, openly, honestly and in good faith in the spirit of building trust and a strong in and lasting partnership.
- (b) If issues arise, the CM&C Senior Executive Director will work with AAC to resolve the issue and, if no satisfactory outcome is achieved, will refer the issue to the Regional Coordination Committee, which may escalate the issue to the Chief Executive Coordination Committee.

6. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The NTG and AAC acknowledge that any transfer of responsibility to AAC for a service delivery area:

- (a) will recognise and meet existing regulatory, legislative and Commonwealth requirements.
- (b) may take a staged approach in order to ensure a successful transition over a period of time.
- (c) will be supported by an agreed dedicated NTG financial commitment and other NTG agency support, which may include training, assets, in-kind support, or other resources.
- (d) will be captured in a formal legal contract with an organisation (or more than one) with authority to act on behalf of the Communities that has:
 - (i) the legal capacity to enter into the contract.
 - (ii) an appropriate and robust local governance structure, which represents the views of the whole community; and
 - (iii) the resources, capacity, experience, and expertise to deliver the service or the capacity to develop those things; and
- (e) will be monitored and evaluated for progress and performance using a transparent, consultative, and participatory approach that promotes the resolution of emerging issues as they arise.

7. SIGNING

Signed by the Hon. Selena Uiibo, Minister for Treaty and Local Decision Making



Hon. Selena Uiibo
Minister for Treaty and Local Decision Making
Date: ..16..... / ..07.... / 2024

Signed by the Hon. Eva Lawler,
Chief Minister



Hon. Eva Lawler
Chief Minister
Date: ..29... / ..7... / 2024

Signed by Veronica Lynch, Vice Chairperson of
Apmwerre Aboriginal Corporation Committee.



Vice Chairperson
Date: ..29... / ..07... / 2024

SCHEDULE 1

Commitment Schedule

The Community	<p>Apmwerre Aboriginal Corporation</p> <p>The Apmwerre Aboriginal Corporation is made up of nine elected board members, which represent the people of Apmwerre Homeland.</p> <p>Apmwerre Homeland is home to the Arrernte people and it is located off the Stuart Highway, approx. 80 km north of Mparntwe (Alice Springs).</p>
Community Representatives	<p>Chairperson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kynan Barnes <p>Vice Chairperson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veronica Lynch <p>Treasurer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anne Lynch <p>Directors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pamela Lynch • Margaret Lynch • Shaqualla Alum • Deakyn Rennie • Jordan Khan • Kelsie Kahl
CM&C Senior Executive Director	John Gaynor
Milestones and Milestone Dates	Heads of Agreement: 1 st January 2025
Current Target Service Delivery Areas	<p>Healthy country, strong in culture, and a thriving community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing • Education and training pathways • Youth services • Economic development • Environmental management