

COMMITMENT AGREEMENT FOR LOCAL DECISION MAKING

Made by the NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT (NTG) and the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) for the benefit of the Ngurratjuta/Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation ICN 414 (Ngurratjuta)

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.
- (a) 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, NIAA and Ngurratjuta to work together to guide the development and implementation of LDM; and
- (b) More formally identify the services which communities within the Ngurratjuta Region wish to have more control over and have relevant NTG agencies commit to sharing information with Ngurratjuta and the associated communities so as to decide how this control and involvement might be achieved. Other communities outside of the Ngurratjuta Region may be consulted and included in some areas of Service Delivery should they choose.

3. COMMITMENT

- (a) The NTG and NIAA is committed to partnering with Aboriginal communities in a meaningful way to determine the shape and control in service delivery areas such as, but not limited to, local healthcare, schools, justice systems, local government, housing, employment, economic development and the 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 Ngurratjuta at Ngurratjuta's pace.
- (c) The NTG, NIAA and Ngurratjuta will work together on the basis of the LDM guiding principles, which are self-determination, place-based, flexible, co-design and community control.
- (d) 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 Regional Executive Director from the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet (CMC) and Regional Manager NIAA, with the NTG Regional Coordination Committee will coordinate the progression of this agreement.
- (b) The Ngurratjuta CEO, CMC Regional Executive Director and NIAA Regional Manager will meet regularly to oversee the progress of the agreement between government and the Ngurratjuta Region.
- (c) The NIAA and 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 Ngurratjuta and the associated communities.
- (d) Ngurratjuta 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 and broader communities within the Ngurratjuta Region.
- (e) The Ngurratjuta representatives will report back to the NTG and NIAA with honest and direct feedback about progress and issues raised by the broader community.
- (f) The NTG, NIAA and Ngurratjuta 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, NIAA and Ngurratjuta, 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, NIAA and Ngurratjuta 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, NIAA and Ngurratjuta 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.

5. MAINTAINING THE PARTNERSHIP

- (a) Ngurratjuta, NIAA and NTG will collaborate and negotiate respectfully, openly, honestly and in good faith in the spirit of building trust and a strong and lasting partnership.
- (b) If issues arise, the CMC Regional Executive Director and NIAA Regional Manager will work with Ngurratjuta and Community representatives 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, NIAA and Ngurratjuta acknowledge that any transfer of responsibility to Ngurratjuta 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

<p>Signed by the Hon. Natasha Fyles, Chief Minister, on behalf of the Northern Territory Government</p>  <p>.....</p> <p>Hon. Natasha Fyles Chief Minister Date: <u>29</u> / <u>06</u> / 2023</p>	<p>Signed by the Hon. Chansey Paech, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice</p>  <p>.....</p> <p>Hon. Chansey Paech Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Date: <u>29</u> / <u>06</u> / 2023</p>
<p>Signed by the Hon. Selena Uiibo, Minister for Treaty and Local Decision Making</p>  <p>.....</p> <p>Hon. Selena Uiibo Minister for Treaty and Local Decision Making Date: <u>29</u> / <u>06</u> / 2023</p>	<p>Signed by the National Indigenous Australians Agency</p>  <p>.....</p> <p>JAKE BUDD. Date: <u>29</u> / <u>06</u> / 2023</p>
<p>Signed by Director of Ngurratjuta/Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation</p>  <p>.....</p> <p>Alison Anderson Director Date: <u>29</u> / <u>06</u> / 2023</p>	<p>Signed by Director of Ngurratjuta/Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation</p>  <p>.....</p> <p>Douglas Multa Director Date: <u>29</u> / <u>06</u> / 2023</p>
<p>Signed by Director of Ngurratjuta/Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation</p>  <p>.....</p> <p>Conrad Ratara Director Date: <u>29</u> / <u>06</u> / 2023</p>	<p>Signed by Cameron Miller as an authorised representative of the Ngurratjuta/Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation.</p>  <p>.....</p> <p>Cameron Miller Chief Executive Officer Date: <u>29</u> / <u>06</u> / 2023</p>

SCHEDULE 1

Commitment Schedule

The Communities	<p>Ngurratjuta/Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation</p> <p>The Ngurratjuta Board currently consists of 10 Directors, four of which are Executive Directors. Ngurratjuta represents a large number of communities and outstations.s. Ngurratjuta's member communities are Ntaria (Hermannsburg), Wallace Rockhole, Utju (Areyonga), Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff), Papunya, Mt Liebig and all the Outstations located in the Ngurratjuta Region, including the small communities and outstations in the Kings Canyon area.</p>
Community Representatives	<p>Executive Directors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Douglas Multa • Alison Anderson • Terry Abbott • Conrad Ratara <p>Directors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruce Breadon • Serena Williams • Neil Peterson • Owen Sandy • Kieren Multa • Albert Gallagher <p>Chief Executive Officer: Cameron Miller CameronM@ngur.com.au 8951 1911</p>
CMC Regional Executive Director	<p>Brendan Blandford Regional Executive Director – Central Australia brendan.blandford@nt.gov.au 8951 5155</p>
NIAA Regional Manager	<p>Byron Matthews Regional Manager byron.matthews@official.niaa.gov.au 8958 4251</p>
Milestones and Milestone Dates	<p>Heads of Agreement: 30 June 2023</p>
Initial Target Service Delivery Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Tenancy, Maintenance, Construction and Government Employee Housing (GEH) Administration • Homelands Municipal and Essential Services, Housing Maintenance Services and Special Purpose Grants (outstation specific) • Remote Jobs, Industry and Employment/Training Programmes • Education attendance, Two-Way Learning and Pathways • Social, Disability and Welfare • Community and Economic Development • Youth and Families