

Maningrida

LOCAL DECISION MAKING AGREEMENT
2024-2029

*Be led by
Aboriginal
voices, culture,
language and
connection to
country*



Maningrida Local Decision Making Agreement

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*Creating
economic
development
opportunities
on homelands*



Maningrida Local Decision Making Agreement

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Agreement is to:

- a. Be led by Aboriginal voices, culture, language and connection to country;
- b. Document the commitment of the Parties to work together to implement Local Decision Making (LDM) and the Closing the Gap Place-Based Partnership;
- c. More formally identify the services or programs which community wish to have more control over and have relevant government agencies commit to sharing information with the community so as to decide how this control might be achieved;
- d. Formally recognise and respect the existing systems of governance and leadership in the Maningrida Region, which were established long ago and retain strength and authority;
- e. Deliver better value for the people of the Maningrida Region by involving community leaders in government investment initiatives; and
- f. Empower the Maningrida community by prioritising community/region-led place-based projects for future development and investment.

This document is a living document and can be reviewed and amended as required between the Parties.



Image: Traditional Land Owner Karen Wurrldjal of the Dukurrdji Clan welcoming the Northern Territory Executive Council of Aboriginal Affairs to Kunibidji Country – David Mason.

The background is a solid light orange color. It features several decorative elements: a large, faint dotted line forming a circle that encloses the text; and in the bottom-left corner, a series of overlapping, curved bands in red, black, white, and brown. The text is centered and reads:

*The community
and governments
will work
together*



2. Acknowledgement of Country

The Parties to this Agreement acknowledge and pay respect to the Dukurrnji clan of the Kunibidji people who are the Traditional Land Owners of Maningrida. The Kunibidji people of Maningrida and neighbouring clans speak the Marbanard Marro dialects of the Ndjébbana language.

The Parties to this Agreement acknowledge and respect the other language groups living in Maningrida which are Burarra, Djinang, Gunnartpa, Gurrngoni, Kunbarlang, Kune, Kuninkju, Nakara, Rembarrnga and Wurlaki.

3. Parties

The Parties to this Agreement are Dukurrnji Development Corporation, Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation, Maningrida Progress Association, Mala'la Health Service Aboriginal Corporation, Homeland School Company, Northern Land Council and Nja-marleya Cultural Leaders and Justice Group;

AND

The Northern Territory Government led by the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet, the Australian Government led by the National Indigenous Australians Agency, the National Disability Insurance Agency and local government led by the West Arnhem Regional Council.

4. Commitment

- a. Governments are committed to partnering with Aboriginal communities in a meaningful way to determine the governance and control in service delivery areas such as, but not limited to, local healthcare, schools, justice systems, local governments, housing and the community as set out in the LDM Framework;
- b. LDM will be driven by the community and at their pace;
- c. The implementation of LDM will also align with the set of principles launched by the Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory in October 2013; and
- d. The community and governments will work together using the LDM guiding principles of self-determination, place-based, flexible, co-design and community control to help guide the process.

*Work together
to negotiate
a partnership
arrangement
that is open,
honest and
builds mutual
trust and
respect*

5. Process

- a. The Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet will oversee the progression of this Agreement;
- b. Government agencies relevant to a nominated service delivery area will put forward representatives with suitable decision making authority to attend and participate in meetings with the community;
- c. The community will nominate representatives with authority to participate in meetings, provide a meeting space and report back to families, clans and the broader Maningrida Region to ensure everyone is informed at all times;
- d. The nominated community representatives with authority will also report back to government agencies with honest and direct feedback about progress and issues as raised by the broader community;
- e. Community and government representatives will identify a service delivery area or areas where they would like to progress negotiations about service delivery. From these, governments will assist with the development of strategic priorities and co-design a plan for implementation with community; and
- f. The community and governments 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.

6. Maintaining the Partnership

- a. The community and governments will work together to negotiate a partnership arrangement that is open, honest and builds mutual trust and respect; and
- b. If issues arise, governments will work with community representatives to resolve issues and identify solutions together.



Image: Traditional Land Owner David Wurridjal Jones of the Dukurrdji Clan presenting to the Northern Territory Executive Council of Aboriginal Affairs
- David Mason.

*Deliver
better
value for
the people
of the
Maningrida
Region*



7. Status of Agreement

The Parties acknowledge the provisions of this Agreement are not legally enforceable. However, that does not lessen the commitment of the Parties to fully implement this Agreement in a transparent, consultative and accountable manner.

The Parties acknowledge that an appropriate legal framework, with legally binding contracts, will be critical to achieving some of the specific priorities set out in this Agreement for local delivery and decision making.

8. Priorities

This Agreement sets out the cultural, social and economic agenda for the Maningrida Region over the next five years. It is a commitment to work together.

In mid-2021, Maningrida community leaders agreed in principle to sign onto this Agreement as equal partners and have requested immediate action on the following strategic priorities:

- Recognising existing decision making capacity of local Maningrida community leaders, and investing in a genuine governance partnership between Maningrida community leaders and governments through the formation and recognition of a local community board to guide decision making for the future;
- Strengthening cultural knowledge and learning in two ways by incorporating within the education system the values of culture, language and country to the learning outcomes of our children;
- Reducing incarceration rates and contact with the justice system, by strengthening the role of Maningrida community leaders in prevention processes and the justice system;
- Developing a cultural hub to support vulnerable families;
- Support for community wellbeing through the establishment of a Men's Space;
- Recognising the voices of the young people of Maningrida, with an aim to improve engagement with community, enhancing collaborative, structured programs that incorporates culture and connection to country;
- Creating economic development opportunities on homelands;
- Improving local government decision making for Maningrida through strengthening the Local Authority, to align with Maningrida aspirations and decision making;
- Develop a Maningrida Housing Masterplan; and
- To recognise and support actions for people with disabilities. To facilitate decision making, with their inclusion, as related to increased opportunities for improvements in the lives of people with disabilities.



Image: Local Decision Making negotiations with Northern Territory Government representatives 2021.

9. Signing page

Dukurrnji Development Corporation



Name Karen Wuridjal (Board member)

Signature *Karen Wuridjal*

Date *28/5/2024*

Name Reggie Wuridjal (Chair)

Signature *Reggie*

Date

Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation



Name Jacqueline Phillips (Chair)

Signature *Jac Phillips*

Date *28/5/2024*

Name Wayne Kalakala (D/Chair)

Signature *Wayne Kalakala*

Date *28/5/2024*

Maningrida Progress Association



Name Shane Namanurki (Board Member)

Signature *Shane Namanurki*

Date *28/5/2024*

Name Alexander Namondja (D/Chair)

Signature *Alexander Namondja*

Date *28/5/2024*

Mala'la Health Service
Aboriginal Corporation



Name Charlie Gunabara (Chair)
Signature *Charlie Gunabara*
Date *28/05/2024*

Name Valda Bormakarray (Board member)
Signature *VALDA. BORMAKARRAY*
Date *28.5.24*

Nja-marleya Cultural Leaders
and Justice Group



Name David Wuridjal Jones (Chair)
Signature *David Jones*
Date *28/5/24*

Name Garth Doolan (D/Chair)
Signature *[Signature]*
Date *28/05/24*

Homeland School Company



Name Dale Pascoe (Chair)
Signature *Dale Pascoe*
Date *28/5/2024*

Name Monica Wilton (D/Chair)
Signature *Monica Wilton*
Date *20/5/2024*

Northern Land Council



Name Matthew Ryan (Chair)

Signature

Date

25/5/24

West Arnhem Regional Council



Name James Woods (Mayor)

Signature

Date

25/5/24

Name Sharon Hayes (Maningrida LA Chair)

Signature

Date

Sharon Hayes
28/5/24

National Disability Insurance Agency



Name Chantelle Ayres

Signature

Date

CA
28/5/24

National Indigenous Australians Agency



Name Gerrit Wanganeen

Signature

Date

Gerrit Wanganeen
28/5/24

Northern Territory Government



Chief Minister, the Hon Eva Lawler MLA

Date

Minister for Local Decision Making, the Hon Selena Uibo MLA

Date

Minister for Disabilities, the Hon Ngaree Ah Kit MLA

Date

Eva Lawler

28/5/24

Selena Uibo

28/05/2024

Ngaree Ah Kit

28/05/24



*Recognising
the voices of
the young
people of
Maningrida*



Image: Smoking ceremony for disability consultations.



***Empower the
Maningrida
community***

*“Ngúrrabba ngárra-
ya ngabayúka-ma
ngaba-rénjdjeya
lórr badjórlbba,
mánjdja rdórdbalk
kómabba kaya-
rénjdjeya yingúrra
wíba”*

*“We have to work
together to better
our community”*

Dukurrdji Yakarrarra, Dukurrdji Traditional Land Owners

