

Mulyung Aboriginal Corporation

Local Decision Making Agreement 2022-2026



ABN 32 231 518 229

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1. Introduction

The Mulyung Aboriginal Corporation (Mulyung) and the Northern Territory Government (NTG) both have key roles to play in working together to create positive and lasting change for the health, wellbeing and prosperity of the Traditional Owners and families of Nganambala. The homeland is also known as Emu Point, however Nganambala is the name preferred by residents.

Mulyung and the NTG have come together to support the development of this Local Decision Making (LDM) Agreement to facilitate a new working relationship between Mulyung and the NTG. It is a commitment by the NTG to support Nganambala's aspirations for self-determination by working with Mulyung to implement the corporation's strategic priorities.

2. Nganambala and Mulyung Aboriginal Corporation

Nganambala

Nganambala is a homeland located approximately 80 kilometres southwest of Daly River and approximately 30 kilometres east of Peppimenarti in the West Daly region with a population of approximately 70-80 people. Much of the 11km road leading into the outstation is a dirt track across low-lying, flood-prone country. It is largely sustained through homelands funding, with services and support provided by Murin.

Mulyung Aboriginal Corporation (Mulyung)

Mulyung Aboriginal Corporation (Mulyung), incorporated in 1996 under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*, seeks to advance the economic, social and cultural wellbeing of Nganambala by:

- Providing food security, relieving poverty and providing for the general social welfare of residents
- Advancing education including through the establishment of education facilities
- Establishing health, social and public facilities
- Encouraging the continuation and preservation of traditional culture
- Providing all clan members with a sense of responsibility, direction, achievement and pride in community operated projects
- Establishing business ventures as a means of raising funds
- Offering practical assistance, guidance and advice to any members wishing to establish their own business ventures on traditional homelands
- Providing increased employment opportunities for all clan members
- Making donations for charitable purposes

The Mulyung members are individuals who are traditional owners of the homeland, have a traditional affiliation with the land, belong to the Ngangiwumurri language group or are the spouse of such persons.

3. Background

Following the NT Government Cabinet Ministers' visit to Nganambala for Community Cabinet on 28 July 2021 a number of priorities were identified with residents including:

- A suitable building for visiting health staff to use
- More furniture, sporting equipment and resources for the school
- Inspection, cleaning and maintenance of the power supply system
- Investigations and improvements to bore and water supply
- Repairs to housing and planning for additional housing
- Improvements to telecommunications (working with Telstra)
- Addressing concerns regarding access by road and airstrip

4. Vision

The NTG aims for this Agreement to provide a framework to collaboratively work with Mulyung to support the corporation to improve Nganambala's cultural, social and economic development and wellbeing, as driven by the residents' aspirations and priorities.

5. Objectives

The objectives of this Agreement are to:

- Show respect to Nganambala residents' strong cultural, social and economic connection to Country.
- Recognise Mulyung Board Members and Nganambala residents as being best placed to understand the local context, which is required to effectively address local issues and advance priorities.
- Outline the commitment by the NTG and Mulyung to work together to implement LDM in Nganambala.



6. Commitments

The Agreement aims to strengthen the relationships between Mulyung and the NTG. It aligns with Mulyung's strategic priorities and aims to ensure that Mulyung Board Members and the broader Nganambala community will continue to have a strong role in decision making on key local issues.

Mulyung and the NTG agree that working together means:

- NTG representatives listen to and respect Nganambala residents' views and understand that residents are best placed to make decisions and advise the NTG on services in the area.
- Nganambala residents listen to and learn about government systems and decision-making processes from NTG representatives.
- Parties work in partnership to co-design local approaches to address local needs.
- The Agreement's Strategic Priorities will be implemented at the pace set by Mulyung.
- The NTG will support capacity building in Mulyung and Nganambala to ensure they have a strong foundation to make informed decisions and have the capabilities required to implement agreed actions.
- The NTG will support Mulyung in its focus on local workforce development and capacity building and local employment opportunities.

All partners commit to the above principles and recognise that these areas will be key to the successful implementation of the partnership.



7. LDM Agreement Overview

7.1 LDM Agreement & Implementation Plans Process

This Agreement enables Mulyung and the NTG to take a coordinated approach to improving social and economic outcomes for Nganambala over the next five years. It is an evolving document that can be reviewed and updated by agreement between the parties.

This document broadly outlines Mulyung's Strategic Priorities. Further detail will be provided in subsequent Implementation Plans developed and agreed to by the relevant parties. The Implementation Plans should include:

- The purpose, goals and desired outcomes for the Priority
- Key actions required to achieve the Priority with responsibility allocated to relevant parties and timeframes specified
- Measures of success
- Risks
- Monitoring and evaluation processes

7.2 Timeframes

This Agreement and subsequent Implementation Plans will commence upon the date of signing by Mulyung and the NTG and extend to 30 June 2026.

7.3 Monitoring and Evaluation

Each Implementation Plan will specify the agreed monitoring and evaluation processes and the frequency of meetings required to evaluate and update the Plan.

It is recommended that all parties jointly meet at least every three months to formally report on and review the progress of the Agreement as a whole. During these meetings parties will:

- Evaluate and report on the progress of Strategic Priority and Key Enabler actions and work to address any emerging barriers to successful implementation.
- Measure and report on key Strategic Priority and Key Enabler outcomes.
- Discuss and seek consensus on changes to the Agreement to reflect changing priorities, address emerging issues and approve alternative approaches.
- Ensure stakeholders, including residents, remain informed of the progress and outcomes of the Agreement.

8. Strategic Priorities

The partners have agreed to work together to support current activities and progress future opportunities in five Strategic Priority areas.

1. Transition from a Homeland to a Community or a Homeland funded like a Community

This Priority requires action to support Mulyung in:

- Improving essential infrastructure to increase accessibility during the wet season including reviews of the airstrip and road
- Improving delivery of essential services including power generation and water supply
- Improving telecommunications

The responsible parties are Mulyung, WDRC and the NTG (CM&C, TFHC and DIPL).

2. Housing

This Priority requires action to support Mulyung in:

- Additional houses to address overcrowding and maintenance to existing housing to bring them up to standard
- Exploring options for the development/transition of housing service delivery, including tenancy and property management with Mulyung or NTG
- Exploring options to support Mulyung in construction of additional houses to support local employment
- Planning for current and future housing needs

Responsible parties include Mulyung, Murin and NTG (TFHC and DIPL).



3. Health

This Priority requires action to support Mulyung in:

- Setting up a space for visiting health staff
- Providing accommodation for visiting health staff
- Constructing a facility for medical services to operate within community
- Maintaining health facilities and assets

Responsible parties include Mulyung and NTG (NT Health and TEHS).

4. Education

This Priority requires action to support Mulyung in:

- Transitioning early education and child care service delivery from Murin to Mulyung
- Constructing additional education facilities
- Establishing a school council

Responsible parties include Mulyung, Murin and NTG (DOE).

5. Community Wellbeing

This Priority requires action to support Mulyung in:

- Establishing a Ranger service
- Exploring options for a recreation hall that will provide a space for the youth
- Ensuring sustainable use of water supply to maintain grass on the oval
- Focusing strongly on local employment and building the capacity of the local workforce
- Establishing and maintaining a regular Sports and Recreation Program
- Establishing a cultural space for men and women

Responsible parties include Mulyung, WDRC, Thamarrurr Development Corporation, Murin, Thamarrurr Youth Indigenous Corporation and NTG (CM&C, TFHC, DITT and DIPL).



9. Key Enablers

Key enablers to support implementation of the Strategic Priorities include Capacity Building and Business Planning and Development. Good governance and leadership practices and comprehensive business planning will ensure Mulyung can successfully achieve their goals and make informed decisions on the future development of Nganambala.

Organisational Capacity Building

Organisational capacity building will focus on:

- Development of Board member and staff skills, expertise and capacities

Whole of Community Capacity Building

Capacity building will focus on:

- Local workforce development
- Leadership
- Education

Business Planning and Development

Business planning and development will focus on:

- Growth and diversification of business capabilities
- Development of capacity and capability to support local employment opportunities
- Establishing strategic relationships

9.1 Key Enablers: Implementation Plan

9.1.1 Organisational Capacity Building

#	Key Actions	Responsibility	Timeline
1	Identify opportunities and funds to train and upskill board members and future staff including in the areas of governance, leadership, business and finance	Mulyung and NTG	TBC
2	Ensure governance arrangements are in place with formal review meetings scheduled	Mulyung and NTG	TBC

9.1.2 Whole of Community Capacity Building

#	Key Actions	Responsibility	Timeline
3	Support Mulyung in planning and developing school-to-work and local workforce pathways	Mulyung and NTG	TBC
4	Identify and support training and development opportunities for residents to develop job-ready and leadership skills	Mulyung and NTG	TBC

9.1.3 Business Planning and Development

#	Key Actions	Responsibility	Timeline
5	DITT/CM&C support Mulyung to conduct a review of Mulyung to identify gaps and areas for improvement required to support future growth. Following identification of gaps, DITT to support Mulyung to explore available governance and business development support opportunities.	Mulyung and NTG	TBC
6	Support Mulyung in creating opportunities for local jobs and training	Mulyung and NTG	TBC
7	Development of a Mulyung Business Plan and policies and procedures	Mulyung and NTG	TBC
8	Support knowledge sharing and business development through exchanges with other Aboriginal Corporations	Mulyung and NTG	TBC

9.2 Key Enablers: Measures of Success

Key Enabler	#	Measures of Success
Building Organisational Capacity	1	Number of training and upskilling opportunities offered, delivered and accessed by members and staff
	2	Governance practices are adhered to with meetings held and attended
Building Community Capacity	3	Number of local jobs filled by residents
	4	Number of residents engaged in workforce training and development opportunities
Business Planning and Development	5	Engagement with the business development support offered to Mulyung
	6	Number of local jobs and training opportunities created
	7	Mulyung has clear plans for future development
	8	Number of exchanges with other Aboriginal Corporations

10. Abbreviations

CM&C	Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet (NT Government)
DIPL	Department of Infrastructure, Planning & Logistics (NT Government)
DITT	Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (NT Government)
LDM	Local Decision Making
IES	Indigenous Essential Services
Mulyung	Mulyung Aboriginal Corporation
Murin	Murin Association
NTG	Northern Territory Government
TFHaC	Department of Territory Families, Housing & Communities (NT Government)
WDRC	West Daly Regional Council

11. Status of Agreement

The parties acknowledge that the provisions of the LDM 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.

It is the intention of the parties to capture the transfer of any responsibility and control of agreed services and programs in formal contractual arrangements that detail and give legal effect to the parties' decisions.

12. Signatures



Terry Sams
Nganambala Senior Elder

Terry Sams

Marie-Louise Sams
Director, Mulyung Aboriginal Corporation

Marie-Louise Sams

Margret Sams
Director, Mulyung Aboriginal Corporation

Margret Sams

Norma Sams
Director, Mulyung Aboriginal Corporation

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Darren Sams
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Ethan Lemon
Director, Mulyung Aboriginal Corporation

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Director, Mulyung Aboriginal Corporation

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The Hon Nicole Manison MLA
Deputy Chief Minister of the
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