



Illawarra & Wingecarribee Local Decision Making Aboriginal Community (IWLDMAC)

FACT SHEET

The Illawarra and Wingecarribee Local Decision Making Aboriginal Community (IWLDMAC) is guided by a Charter of Governance incorporating the key principles of Respect, Integrity and Accountability, together with principles outlined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People including the principle of Free Prior and Informed Consent.

STRUCTURE

Membership of the IWLDMAC is comprised of chairpersons or nominated representatives from ten Aboriginal Organisations from the Illawarra, Shellharbour and Wingecarribee LGA's.

ROLE AND FOCUS OF THE IWLDMAC

- Advocate on behalf Aboriginal People and Torres Strait Islander people within the Illawarra and Wingecarribee Region on regional issues that affect their lives
- Work with Government and service providers to ensure equitable access to services
- Ensure participation by Aboriginal people in decision making processes with government and service providers

RECOGNISED RIGHTS

The IWLDMAC acknowledges the **rights of member communities** to pursue initiatives for the betterment of their community and recognises that these initiatives may be negotiated at a local community level outside the IWLDMAC

- The IWLDMAC does not represent an Aboriginal cultural authority for the region and does not represent the interests of Traditional Owners of Native Title or act in Land Rights.
- The IWLDMAC recognises and respects the cultural authority of Traditional Owner groups within the region and does not make decisions that would impinge on the cultural authority and autonomy of these groups.

Local Decision Making (LDM):

- **Local Decision Making (LDM) is an initiative of the NSW Government** under OCHRE, the NSW Government plan for Aboriginal affairs. LDM is a process that changes the way the MPRA and NSW Government work together.
 - The IWLDMAC was one of three regional alliances originally selected to be part of the LDM Initiative, through an open EOI process conducted in 2013.
- Through LDM the IWLDMAC will, over time, gain **more control of NSW Government services**, building its capacity, management skills, decision making power and authority.
- Under LDM, **NSW Government will become more flexible and responsive** to the needs of the IWLDMAC. The IWLDMAC has recently completed negotiations with NSW Government to develop an accord which;
 - Sets out the relationship between NSW Government and the Assembly, including where information and decision-making power is shared.
 - Includes agreed actions to address the priorities negotiated between NSW Government and The Assembly; around Housing, Education, Economic Development and Governance
- During December 2014 / January 2015 the IWLDMAC conducted a series of **community consultations** to, broadly inform the Illawarra and Wingecarribee communities of the new LDM initiative and Seek community views on the existing Illawarra and Wingecarribee regional governance model and its effectiveness.
 - Findings and recommendations from the consultations have been considered by the IWLDMAC and included in the structure of the new incorporated organisation.

USEFUL LINKS:

OGHRE: www.aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au/nsw-government-aboriginal-affairs-strategy

Aboriginal-Deputy-Ombudsman: www.aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au/aboriginal-deputy-ombudsman

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