



# Illawarra & Wingecarribee LDM ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The Illawarra and Wingecarribee Local Decision Making Aboriginal Community (IWLDMAC) focuses on equitable access to services as a fundamental right for Aboriginal people in the Illawarra and Wingecarribee regions. The negotiated accords informs the NSW Government in guiding service delivery to Aboriginal people of the region.

The IWLDMAC recognises and respects the authority of constituent (Community Working Parties) as well as 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. As an Aboriginal governance body the IWLDMAC expects its partners to acknowledge the cultural protocols of its members and their communities including the need to respect Aboriginal cultural decision making protocols.

At its core the IWLDMAC exists to advocate on behalf of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, ensuring their participation in decision making that affects their lives, providing influence and advice on the way policies and services are implemented across the region.

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- *IWLDMAC is an initiative of the NSW Government under OCHRE, the NSW Government plan for Aboriginal affairs.*
  - *IWLDMAC is a process that changes the way the Assembly and NSW Government work together.*
  - *Through IWLDMAC the Assembly will, over time, (and subject to its ability to demonstrate appropriate governance processes and standards) gain more control of certain NSW Government services, building its capacity, management skills, decision making power and authority.*
  - *Under IWLDMAC, NSW Government will become more flexible and responsive to the needs of the IWLDMAC*
  - *The IWLDMAC will undertake negotiations with NSW Government to develop an accord which;*
    - *Will sets out the relationship between NSW Government and the IWLDMAC, including where information and decision-making power is to be shared.*
  - *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.*
  - *Role and focus of the IWLDMAC is to;*
    - *Advocate on behalf Aboriginal People and Torres Strait Islander people within the IWLDMAC 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*
  - *The IWLDMAC continues to focus on equitable access to services for Aboriginal people in the IWLDMAC*
  - *The IWLDMAC is guided by a (Charter of Governance / Terms of Reference) 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.*
  - *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*

