



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

14th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MEDIA RELEASE

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INQUIRY INTO LOCAL DECISION MAKING

In 2018 the government announced a 10-year local decision making plan (LDM) to facilitate a new working relationship between Aboriginal communities and government agencies to support self-determination and assist the transition of government services and programs to community control.

Three years on, the Public Accounts Committee has commenced an inquiry to ascertain:

- the progress, achievements, challenges and future potential of LDM implementation across the Northern Territory
- how to foster community and leadership interest in and commitment to new LDM agreements
- the impact of technology, Treaty, Truth-Telling and Voice on LDM development.

“In these difficult times, empowering Indigenous communities is more important than ever” Chair of the PAC, Mr Joel Bowden MLA said. Speaking about the public hearings the Committee held in Darwin over the last two days, Mr Bowden noted that “LDM stretches across a wide range of government services that were represented at the hearings by the Departments of the Attorney-General and Justice, Health, Education, Territory Families, Housing and Communities.”

The Committee also heard from the Local Government Association of the NT, the National Indigenous Australians Agency and the NT Treaty Commission. To date, the Committee has received 24 submissions from a wide range of organisations with an interest in the LDM process (see <https://parliament.nt.gov.au/committees/list/PAC/LDM>).

“Over the coming months, the Committee will be holding further hearings in regional centres across the Territory and is particularly keen to visit remote communities and gain a better understanding of the challenges and future potential of the LDM framework. To be kept informed about the progress of the Committee’s inquiry I encourage people to subscribe to our email alerts by visiting <https://parliament.nt.gov.au/committees/subscribe>” Mr Bowden said.

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