



Yugul Mangi Development Aboriginal Corporation

Local Decision Making Board Ngukurr Community

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Public Accounts Committee

Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory

Dear Public Accounts Committee,

Please accept Yugul Mangi Development Aboriginal Corporations submission for the inquiry into Local Decision Making.

Local Decision Making - Ngukurr

Yugul Mangi Development Aboriginal Corporation entered into a Multi Agency Partnership Agreement Local Decision Making Guiding Principles in May 2018, signed by Bobby Nunggumajbarr Chairman of YMDAC, Michael Gunner Chief Minister and Selin Uibo Member.

One of the key learnings YMDAC took out of the experience was the need for YMDAC to have a business and strategic plans, and for LDM Implementation Plan to more closely align with achievable targets linked to those plans.

This is now reflected in the new LDM Implementation Plan signed by Northern Territory Government, Federal Government and set to be endorsed by the YMDAC Local Decision Making Board in August 2021.

The achievements listed in our new LDM under the first MAP agreement show we are making solid progress.

Over the past 3 years the Local Decision Making process has provided YMDAC and Government a focal point to make changes in how programs are designed and delivered in Ngukurr for the Yugul People. The result has been a shift in focus to listen to the community and how they want programs run, designed locally and delivered by local people. There have been tangible benefits in economic participation, organisational capacity that have led to increase social and economic wellbeing in Ngukurr. The substantial growth of YMDAC over the past 2 years (from \$4.5m turnover to \$9m turnover) is a measure of the success. On top of this we control the Ngukurr Store with a turnover of \$7m and now deliver the CDP under a Joint Venture with a further \$3.7m turnover, which was a goal in the first MAP.

Example of success

The supply of concrete to **Ngukurr Police Station** build provided real outcomes from LDM that had flow on benefits for the organisation and the community.

DIPL included YMDAC in the tendering documents that ensured tenderers received an equal opportunity to sub-contract YMDAC. Standard information on concrete supply, accommodation and labour was provided which saved the barrage of requests from tenderers to engage with YMDAC during tender process, whilst providing an even playing field for them. The result was YMDAC provided the concrete for the Ngukurr Police Station which resulted in local employment and over \$500,000 in profits for the organisation. A direct outcome from LDM.

Those profits were used to build the new YMDAC office administration building which now houses our social program managers and staff and of great benefit and pride is the new YMDAC board room. It is hard to measure how this has positively impacted the organisation, our Directors, managers, staff and community members. Needless to say the impact is profound.

Another benefit was the increased capacity to supply a large quantity of concrete to high standards to meet the demands of the contractor. We now have 2 concrete trucks, 2 batching plants operational and a highly skilled batching crew.

Areas of focus that we are leveraging of LDM

There is still a long way to go on this journey as we focus on the priority areas in the LDM Implementation plan. Our experience by and large as a result of YMDAC LDM the Federal and Territory departments are fitting in better with community, they are listening and enhancing the opportunities for us to participate. Local Decision Making provides tangible support to achieving our goals such as:

1. YMDAC have tendered for R&M and Tenancy Management contracts in Ngukurr and Urapunga under Single Select Tender. This is another direct outcome from LDM.
2. YMDA are delivering the Intensive Family Support Service and Domestic Violence programs and are tendering for the new Family Support Service and Child and Family Intensive Support (CaFIS). YMDAC refer to LDM in our tenders and place-based solutions are reflected back by the departments.
3. YMDAC have an aspiration for building new houses and have approached DIPL and Territory Housing requesting the opportunity to build 2 new houses in Ngukurr in the next role out, driving local employment and local Aboriginal trades. We are hopeful that this will come to fruition as the next step on our development in construction capacity.
4. We are focused on entering into Aged Care and have a block of land under Section 19 lease that we are working in partnership of ITEC Health to develop into a community controlled aged care facility.
5. YMDAC have applied through NLC for section 19 for the Cemetery. YMDAC use use profits from our store and businesses to reinvest into cemetery management including support for families by coordinating and paying for the cost funerals for funerals.
6. YMDAC have applied through NLC for Section 19 for the Ngukurr football oval. We have developed a Oval Management Plan and will also use our generated income to maintain and make improvements to the oval and infrastructure.

Challenges

There is only one experience that YMDAC felt let down under LDM. This was not at the Government level but with housing construction lead contractors that did not engage with YMDAC. In the last housing role out of new builds there were 3 contractors engaged at once to build 16 houses. One of the contractors employed local people and engaged YMDAC to provide the concrete to the value of \$300k. The other two contracts bought in their own batching plants and provided limited local employment. One of the contractors did not contact YMDAC at all for the opportunity for us to quote on the supply of concrete. In effect we had 3 concrete batching units in Ngukurr yet YMDAC should have been given the opportunity to supply. And local employment opportunities were missed.

There was no way for the community experience to be feed back into the assessment of the contractor's performance through DIPL. We could not talk to in a structured assessment to the success of the program delivering employment and economic opportunities in Ngukurr. This gap in accountability needs to be closed so that this lack of community involvement and opportunity for real jobs is not repeated in future.

Looking to the Future

The next big tasks for the future of LDM in Ngukurr are:

- Establishment of a Treaty for the Yugul People that locks in Local Decision Making beyond the Multi Agency Partnership Agreement that truly recognises the voice of the 7 Tribes, Yugul Law and cultural governance.
- To increase the potential of the local economy through the opening up and development of land. YMDAC representing the 7 tribes is focused on achieving a Section 19a lease over Ngukurr Township in cooperation of the Office of Township Leasing and Millwarparra Aboriginal Corporation.
- Infrastructure, YMDAC need staff accommodation and a purpose build office building. Our new office is demountable that we have converted into an office and we still have staff living in the Darlala Motel. We have applied for Section 19s to build the Millwarrpara Centre offices as well as land for staff accommodation. We will look to leveraging of Local Decision Making to assist to attract the funding to build these vital infrastructure projects.

In summary:

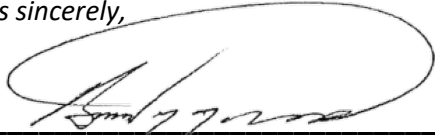
YMDAC appreciated Local Decision Making, it is driving changes to the fabric of Ngukurr. We have felt empowered by the process with real success including:

- Development of the YMDAC Business Plan and Strategic Plans
- Shift in focus from Government to listen to community
- Increased opportunity for locally driven programs (social, cultural, justice, economic, employment, housing)
- Recognition of our Local Decision Making Board
- Increased employment opportunities for local people
- Increased capacity for YMDAC as it grows in ability to deliver
- Focus on Quality Management Systems and IMS
- Improved participation and empowerment of the YMDAC Board of Directors
- Flow on effects in community well being through effective culturally appropriate programs

We would like to thank the NT Department of Chief Minister for guiding YMDAC throughout the LDM journey so far, the support has been critical to the real success YMDAC are achieving now. We also thank NIAA for their input and support in aligning YMDAC priorities with Federal Government responsibilities.

We are excited by the possibilities with Local Decision Making to further the community aspirations in self determination and look to the future with great hope and optimism.

Yours sincerely,



Bobby Nunggumajbarr

Chairman - YMDAC



Paul Francis

Chief Executive Officer - YMDAC