



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.

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NRAA APPOINT PAUL CALLAGHAN AS LEAD NEGOTIATOR

The Northern Region Aboriginal Alliance, NRAA, was established through the NSW state plan for Aboriginal Affairs known as OCHRE.

NRAA encompassing 14 Local Aboriginal Land Councils known as the Northern Region and their attached local government areas.

"We are really excited to announce that we have formally appointed Worimi man, Mr Paul Callaghan to the role of Lead Negotiator" said Chairperson Aunty Jean Hands "Paul brings a wealth of high level negotiating experience to the position, which coupled with his strong connection to country and culture will make him an asset to our NRAA team".

"This is the first time Aboriginal people been given a seat at the decision makers table and we take our role of leaders in this process very seriously" says Chairperson, Aunty Jean Hands.

Paul Callaghan said "For the first time in Australian History, the NSW state government has provided Aboriginal people the opportunity to participate in decisions made at a higher level which have an impact on Aboriginal people, families and communities and I am proud to be the person chosen by the NRAA committee to lead the negotiation process on their behalf"

He added "Although I belong to Worimi country, I have had the privilege of living in Tamworth from 2008 to 2013. In that time I travelled throughout country and communities within the NRAA boundaries. I am very connected to this country and the communities within it. This connection was reinforced by the cultural activities I carried out in a number of schools in the NRAA footprint. Since that time I have visited many towns in the NRAA footprint delivering a variety of cultural workshops and meeting a number of highly motivated, passionate and inspiring members of local communities"

NRAA will lodge the statement of claim to the NSW State Government through Aboriginal Affairs by the end of this month which will see the process escalated and we can expect to see outcomes from the negotiations within 12 months of accord negotiations.

NRAA are also working on a 4th round of community consultations under their "Connecting to Community" initiative in all 14 Local Aboriginal Land Council

areas, we encourage all community members and organisations to participate in the consultations, more information can be found on the NRAA facebook page or the website aboriginalalliance.com.au.

For further information, please contact:

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