



Our vision...

To work in partnership with

Aboriginal people in New South

Wales to achieve social, cultural

and economic independence.

our role in government



The policies and programs of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs are designed to assist Aboriginal people to establish and maintain their rights, and to overcome the ongoing social and economic disadvantage experienced since European occupation.

We are committed to developing and implementing these policies and programs in a way that involves Aboriginal peoples and communities as equal partners.

The agendas of the Department are grounded in a commitment to social justice and Aboriginal self-determination, and recognition and respect for the diverse cultures of the Aboriginal peoples of NSW.

The role of the Department is to:

- Advocate for the voice of Aboriginal peoples in NSW to be heard in the development of NSW Government policies and services.
- Lead and coordinate NSW Government agencies on Aboriginal affairs.
- Monitor the effectiveness of NSW Government agencies in their development and delivery of policies and services affecting Aboriginal people.
- Support and monitor non-government and business initiatives aimed at achieving our vision.



Aboriginal communities development program

The Aboriginal Communities Development Program (ACDP) is a capital construction and upgrade program which is raising the health and living standards of 22 priority Aboriginal NSW communities with urgent environmental health needs.

The ACDP was launched on 29 May 1998 as a seven year project. It now has a budget of \$240 million and will be completed in 2008.

The program provides housing, water, sewerage, roads, and recreational and cultural facilities to communities with a high level of identified need.

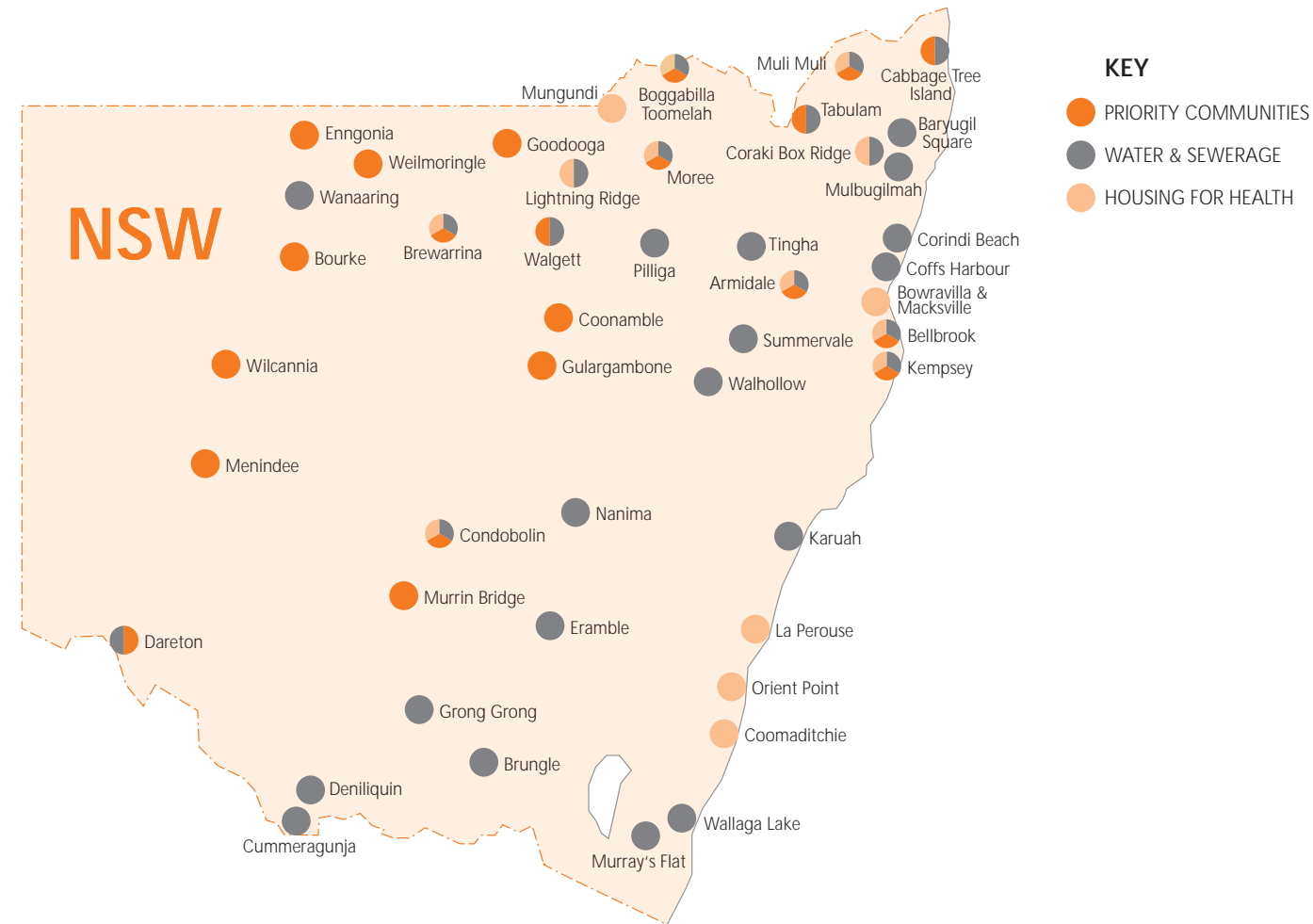


Wilcannia

The ACDP aims to achieve its purpose by focusing its funding and effort within priority communities rather than through existing State-wide government programs, and will build on the fundamental principles of consultation, community participation, sustainability and self-determination.



Bourke



what we do



Mutawintji National Park

Heritage and Natural Resources Unit

The Department works to improve the capacity of communities, agencies and Government to recognise, protect and act on Aboriginal rights related to heritage and natural resources.

The Department is also responsible for the development and implementation of policies in relation to the responsibilities of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983. A large part of this work is to ensure that the Aboriginal Land Council system functions as effectively as possible to meet the economic, cultural and social needs of Aboriginal people in NSW.

Community Relations

The Department is involved in initiating, facilitating and promoting consultations between the Aboriginal community and key stakeholders, providing strategic advice on Aboriginal community issues relevant to government agencies on all levels, and creating effective links between relevant funding programs and the Aboriginal community.

The Community Partnerships Project is a four year trial project which has a Project Manager located at the Central Coast (Gosford), the Far South Coast (Narooma) and Menindee. The Project aims to assist in the co-ordination of government services to those communities and involve the Aboriginal people in those communities in the planning and decision making process.



Family History

The Department is the custodian of the records of the Aborigines Protection Board and the Aborigines Welfare Board.

These records contain valuable information for people wanting to find out more about their family history.

People researching their family history can apply, through the Department's Archives Officer, to see the records of the Aborigines Protection and Welfare Boards.

NSW Aboriginal Languages Research and Resource Centre

The NSW Aboriginal Languages Research and Resource Centre (NSWALRRC) opened in March 2003. It is located on the premises of Tranby College, Glebe.

The centre is playing a key role in assisting Aboriginal people and communities across NSW to revive and strengthen Aboriginal languages, by providing advice in areas such as teaching, research and recording of languages.

that wish to implement innovative programs that will address the disadvantage of the Aboriginal community. A major grant can be up to \$45,000, it is only available at certain times of the year. Each major grant round is advertised widely.

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Grants

The Department has a grants program which consists of major and discretionary grant components.

The major grants program has been established to provide financial assistance to Aboriginal peoples and organisations

Discretionary grants of up to \$4,000 are available to assist with projects that meet the social and cultural priorities of the Department.

The priorities for both major and discretionary grants are reviewed annually.