LOCAL DECISION MAKING

VISION: Aboriginal people determining their own futures.

“At the pace communities are comfortable, the Government is ceding decision-making power back to where it belongs, the communities.” From the Chief Minister, Michael Gunner, Barunga Speech 9 June 2018.

Local Decision Making Principles turn policy into action:

- **Self-determination**
  - Aboriginal people will lead decision making processes based on their needs.

- **Place-based**
  - Government adapts to different locations, communities and services.
  - We will take time to get it right and will respond to local priorities.

- **Flexible**
  - We will work with community, not design something then come to community for input.

- **Co-design**
  - We will support community to reach their aspirations.

Practical Steps: A Roadmap

Top road journeys involve government agencies using the LDM principles to adapt service delivery in communities.

A bottom road LDM site is an agreement between community leadership and several government agencies working in a coordinated approach to achieve a broad range of aspirations.

- **Stage 1: Preparing**
  - Understanding LDM and sharing meaningful information.

- **Stage 2: Becoming a LDM site**
  - Communities choose to be involved and identify aspirations.

- **Stage 3: Negotiating**
  - Details of service transition, resources, governance and timeframes are agreed.

- **Stage 4: Implementing**
  - Working together to achieve aspirations enabling community control.

Some ways communities are engaging in Local Decision Making:

- Individual Aboriginal Corporations coming together to form an alliance.
- Aboriginal Cultural governance systems.
- Regional model including several communities and their organisations.


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Two way capacity strengthening enables government agencies and community representatives to work together. The LDM Community Control Continuum is based on the principles of International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Public Participation Spectrum. Community priority areas for Local Decision Making:

- Children and Families
- Housing
- Health
- Law and Justice
- Economic Development
- Local Government
- Education, Training and Jobs

Government may need to strengthen capacity to coordinate agencies, be flexible in practice and process, and build local cultural competency. Existing strengths in cultural authority, resilience and connection to country.

Community may need capacity strengthening for governance, negotiation skills, community support structures.