



NYUNGGAI WARREN MUNDINE

20 June 2014

RE: 4th Indigenous Employment in Local Government National Roundtable

A very dear friend and colleague of mine, the late Cr Patricia Dixon, Deputy Mayor of Armidale NSW, stated in a 1997 speech to the Australian Reconciliation Convention *“Local Government is the place where change can happen. It is the place where big issues at the national level have their base.”*

The local government sector has a lot to offer and a long history with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as a place-based employer offering secure and diverse career opportunities in 565 locations throughout Australia. Local government has delivered and has the potential to deliver more, with a range of initiatives that address the barriers that prevent Indigenous Australians from participating in employment, education and training.

One example is Latrobe City Council in Victoria, which recently won the [2014 National Award for Excellence for Local Government](#) with its *Steps to the Future Indigenous Employment Program*. The council offers an exemplary model of a successful partnership-based Indigenous employment program, offering local Indigenous people a pathway towards a career of their choice and training that leads to real sustainable employment opportunities.

Their program has delivered a range of initiatives that address the barriers that prevent Indigenous Australians from participating in employment, education and training. Latrobe City Council works in partnership with some of the region’s largest employers in a range of industries.

I encourage you to learn about this model and other innovative strategies and good practice by attending the 4th Indigenous Employment in Local Government National Roundtable, 14-16 July in Fremantle WA, the week after NAIDOC Week.

Nyunggai Warren Mundine

Chairman, Prime Minister’s Indigenous Advisory Council

Former Dubbo City Councillor and Deputy Mayor 1995 - 2004

Former President of the NSW Local Government Aboriginal Network 1996 - 2003

NSW Local Government Association Executive Committee 2002 - 2004