



# MEDIA RELEASE

---

30 October 2018

## HISTORIC GATHERING OF COMMONWEALTH & STATE DEPARTMENTS TO SUPPORT MAJOR REFORM INITIATIVES FOR CENTRAL COAST ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY

*After submitting a 'Statement of Claim' to State and Commonwealth Governments in May this year, Barang Regional Alliance recently marked its collaboration with Government partners with a two-day cultural immersion workshop, in a bid to increase understanding of Aboriginal ways of 'knowing and doing'.*

Representatives and key decision makers from ten Commonwealth and State Departments and Central Coast Council joined Central Coast Aboriginal organisations, youth and community members at a historic gathering, hosted by Barang Regional Alliance. The gathering was held at Kariong and Wyong as part of a two-day cultural immersion workshop on Thursday 25 and Friday 26 October.

As the representative body for the NSW Local Decision Making and Empowered Communities initiatives, Barang Regional Alliance represents the Central Coast's Aboriginal community through advocacy and enacts regional reform change for the empowerment of this community.

Barang Regional Alliance Chairperson Kate Kelleher remarked on the significance of this gathering for the Coast's Aboriginal population.

"This gathering represents an historic, significant moment in our history in which our Government partners are culturally immersing themselves in Aboriginal ways of learning and doing. This is the first step in our working together to reform the way we do business, a way that puts the community's voice, needs and solutions first.

"The deeper cultural understandings and bonds made will be taken forward into formal community-led partnership table meetings to negotiate empowered youth-focussed structural reform and re-investment opportunities, which will be formalised through a multi-party agreement," Ms Kelleher continued.

Initial feedback from participants of the workshop revealed positive sentiments about the strength of the Central Coast Aboriginal Community, particularly the connection between the elders and emerging leaders, and their readiness to drive a new approach and partnerships to improve lives of the community.

One participant said, "It was one of the most valuable community engagement exercises I've been part of – and I learned so much. Looking forward to seeing what we can achieve together."

Further comments revealed that the ambition, energy and capability are obvious in the community with the voice of youth in particular providing a real opportunity for change and leading the way for the future of the Central Coast Aboriginal Community.

The proposed formal negotiations between Barang and State and Commonwealth Government will see the bodies collaborate to enact Barang's regional reform agenda will give the community a say in how their needs are funded and designed.

**-MORE-**



# MEDIA RELEASE

---

**-MORE-**

To support this community-led reform, Barang Regional Alliance has this week announced its call to the Central Coast Aboriginal community to register Expressions of Interest to participate in Joint Decision Making (JDM) Community Panels that will be involved in these reforms.

Participation on these panels will provide a unique opportunity for the Aboriginal community to guide the improvement of services being delivered by identifying and rewarding programs and service providers which genuinely build long-term, sustainable community empowerment.

“All Aboriginal community members currently living and/or working on the Central Coast, Darkinjung Country, who have an understanding of and connection to the local community and its needs are invited to submit their expression of interest to participate in our Joint Decision Making Community Panels,” Ms Kelleher concluded.

Parties interested in learning more about the JDM Community Panels can visit [barang.org.au/jdm-panel](http://barang.org.au/jdm-panel) for more information and to obtain an information pack.

For more information about Barang Regional Alliance, please visit [barang.org.au](http://barang.org.au) or phone 02 4351 3225.

**-ENDS-**





Central Coast

# MEDIA RELEASE

---

**Contact:** Caitlin Vine | Brilliant Logic | [cvine@brilliantlogic.com.au](mailto:cvine@brilliantlogic.com.au) | 02 4324 6962

## About Barang Regional Alliance

*Barang Regional Alliance (Barang) is driving community-led government reform for the benefit of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community on Darkinjung Land in the Central Coast of NSW. Barang advocates to reform current thinking, systems and processes to deliver more effective service delivery outcomes and accountability.*

*Barang Regional Alliance has partnered with five leading Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations including Bara Barang Corporation, NAISDA Dance College, Gudjagang Ngara li-dhi Aboriginal Corporation, Mingaletta Aboriginal Corporation, and Yerin Aboriginal Health Services.*