



Barkly Regional Deal

Interim Governance Table Communique – 27 April 2021

- The twelfth meeting of the Interim Barkly Governance Table (the Table) was held on Tuesday 27 April 2021 in Tennant Creek, with some members attending via teleconference.
- The Table noted the contribution made by Tim Candler in establishing the Backbone team and thanked Kevin Banbury for his contribution, especially as co-chair of the Youth Justice Facility Working Group.
- Welcome John Fitz and Clair Keen as the two new NGO reps. Sharen Lake will move to represent the BRC.

Working Group Updates

- The Economic Growth Strategy Working Group (EGSWG) co-chair raised concerns around the engagement of the current membership and the lack of Aboriginal representation in the work. The Table members discussed the role of the EGSWG and the need to clearly articulate the functions and remit. It was agreed that the Land Councils have an increasingly important role in this space and that their engagement is important, both in the working group and the Deal more broadly. The Table agreed to invite the Northern Land Council and Central Land Council to nominate their representatives to join the Table.
- The Regional Workforce Strategy Working Group held its first meeting on 25 March and is now setting up its Terms of Reference.
- The Visitor Park Working Group will present the project design brief at the next meeting and then return to the Table in order to progress to procurement. The Table members discussed the community concerns that have been raised around conflict of interest. Members noted that the Visitor Park will not be on Patta native title land, there is an important cultural role for Patta to welcome visitors into the land, and the perception of conflict will be actively monitored. The co-Chair role does not involve decision making, but rather facilitation. Given this, the Table supports the current charring arrangements.
- The Youth Justice Facility Working Group created a sub-group who have been tasked to work on the service model. The sub-group will be invited to provide an update to Table members on the work. Table members also noted the success of the working group in working cooperatively with the Government to change the original proposal, and that this should be viewed as success story from all sides.

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- The Barkly Business Hub is progressing well. The Northern Territory Government has met with key stakeholders to invite proposals on the service offer, which will be considered by the EGSWG and then the Table. The NTG will be making an additional financial contribution, beyond what is being provided under the Deal.
- The Crisis Youth Support Working Group will be looking for a new co-Chair with Sharen Lake's departure as NGO representative. Table members also discussed the increasing work load challenges around the working groups.
- The Backbone team gave an update on the Measuring Change Working Group. Tony will be interim chairing. There has been a lot of work happening in this space, including working with the Sports Hub to develop the story of change for the deal.

Key Discussions

- The Table noted the progress across the 28 initiatives and discussed the need to improve the profile and communication around the Deal.
- The Government Investment and Social Service Reform (GISSR) initiative is under way. Table members noted that this is the one of the most significant initiative under the Barkly Regional Deal, with the potential to unlock millions of dollars of government investments across the region. The initiative is a long-term commitment from government but there is need to demonstrate progress on this initiative. Table members noted the strong community interest for this work to progress.
- Table members discussed the importance of food security. The NTG and NIAA are in the process of establishing a Barkly Food Security Committee, which will consider the rebuild of the IGA as well as broader concerns around food security in the region. Members discussed some of the current challenges around food security, which can be included in the Committee's terms of reference.
- The Table members discussed the future of the backbone arrangements following a letter from Council asking for the arrangements to be reconsidered. Noting that the preferred model for the Backbone is an incorporated arrangement, Table members agreed that that the Backbone should move directly to the preferred model rather than consider an interim auspice arrangement. Government partners will explore how they can support the Backbone with the transition.
- The Backbone team submitted a draft proposal for the permanent governance table structure that includes a regional Alliance. The Table talked about what the arrangement would be and the level of support that

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would be required to help the Alliance effectively participate. The second round of community consultation will take place over the next few months.

- Sector Updates:
 - NGO: renamed to the Barkly Community Network, in order to broaden the scope, and welcomed two new representatives to the Table.
 - Business: Noted the significant stimulus expenditure flowing through the region and there is a need to ensure that the local business community is capturing the benefits.
 - Patta: Working on a number of large projects and welcome the support by the Table to ensure that Patta is recognised as the native title holders.
 - Youth: One of the outcomes from the Youth Forum was for a youth representative group to be set up. Steve Hirvonen will be working to support this.
 - Council of Aboriginal Organisation: The group is actively considering its Terms of Reference and its information feedback loops.
 - Government: The Commonwealth Provided feedback on Assistant Minister Marino's visit and an update on the Voice consultation process. The Barkly Regional Council noted that there are 15 construction projects on the go – eight related to the Barkly Regional Deal.

The following papers were submitted for endorsement:

- Letter from the Access to Justice in the Barkly CEO and members seeking the endorsement of the access to Justice Report and the 16 recommendations. (This paper was discussed, but not endorsed.)
- The Table discussed the Community Living Areas paper from NTG, including the accreditation process currently underway to allow the handover of specific maintenance services to Julalikari, and noted the complexities of the current service model. A further update will be provided to the next Table meeting.
- Homelands Sub-committee paper.
- Wangkara Kari Evaluation Report. It agreed that AHL had discharged its obligations and that the project is closed.
- PIC Childcare proposal was endorsed.

The following proposals were submitted for noting or further consideration:

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- Letter from the Access to Justice in the Barkly CEO and members for the Barkly Access to Justice service group to be provided an extra seat on the Table.

Other Project Highlights

- Drawings for the Youth Recreation Centre were tabled; construction will commence in coming weeks and the build is due for completion around August this year.
- The Barkly Backbone delivered presentations on the proposed Regional Alliance Model and the Learning and Measuring work, including broad work plans and community engagement processes.

Agreed Decisions

- Table members agreed on the following:
 - The permanent structure of the Governance Table at the June meeting.
 - To keep the Crisis Youth Support working group separate from the GISSR working group on youth.
 - To prioritise Early Childhood and Youth as priority sectors for the GISSR work.
 - To engage Price Waterhouse Cooper Indigenous Consulting to support the GISSR work.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for 29 June 2021.