



Barkly Regional Deal

Communique

Governance Table Meeting – 7 September 2021

Key points

- The first meeting of the ongoing Governance Table (the Table) took place on 7 September 2021 in Tennant Creek, with some members attending by videoconference
- The Table transitioned from its interim structure to its ongoing structure, now including four representatives from the Barkly Aboriginal Alliance.
- The meeting attendees spent the day workshoping the ongoing governance of the Deal, focusing on the importance of collaboration and relationship-building.
- Table members will continue developing a shared vision, outcomes and principles.

Summary

- Since 2019 the Deal has been led by an interim Governance Table in anticipation of the establishment of the Aboriginal Alliance (the Alliance).
- The Alliance is a new Aboriginal governance structure in the Barkly, made up of representatives from the region's eleven main language groups. Four representatives from the Alliance sit at the Table, bringing regional voices and advocacy for remote communities and homelands into the implementation of the Deal.
- The Governance Table meeting on 7 September 2021 was an important relationship-building and orientation day for new members, laying the foundation for strong collaborative leadership into the future.
- The day was framed through the lens of the values held by both Western and Aboriginal worlds. It highlighted similarities and differences, and more importantly it pointed to the space in between. Attendees were invited to look to creating ways of working that would acknowledge and respectfully bring partners together as key to achieve better outcomes for Aboriginal people in the Barkly.
- Table members spoke about some of the key achievements of the Deal to date, including the co-design of the youth justice facility and the new relationships built between Table members.

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- Members discussed their roles and responsibilities to the Table and the sectors they represent. There was a focus on two-way communication, accountability and managing conflicts of interest.
- The role of the Backbone team was outlined as important in supporting the Table and in building capacity and local leadership in the community sectors.
- The group spoke about the work of the Backbone team, including community planning, monitoring and evaluation, and secretariat functions for the Table and working groups.
- Alliance members outlined their aspirations for the Barkly and desire to work in partnership with the Table to improve outcomes for the region's diverse Aboriginal communities.
- The Alliance wants to ensure the views and needs of the Barkly's remote communities are reflected in Deal implementation and priority setting for the region.
- There was a focus on how decisions are made by the Governance Table and an emphasis around the importance of decisions being made by consensus from the group.
- Community representatives outlined the need to consult on issues with their sectors. The Alliance members advised the importance of engaging elders and their other community leaders prior to making decisions.
- The collective noted the importance for Governments to allow the community to lead and be empowered to determine their own priorities for the future.
- Governance Table and Alliance members started workshopping a shared vision for the Deal as well as outcomes and principles. They will finalise this work for the next Governance Table meeting.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for 26 October 2021.