



Barkly Regional Deal

Interim Governance Table Communique – 13 July 2021

- The thirteenth meeting of the Interim Barkly Governance Table (the Table) was held on Tuesday 13 July 2021 in Tennant Creek, with some members attending via teleconference.
- The table welcomed Pat Brahim as the interim representative for the Aboriginal Corporations Leadership Group and John Fitz as the representative for the NGO sector.
- The Table noted arrangements for the second Barkly Regional Council representative will be finalised by end of July 2021.

Working Group Updates

- The **Economic Growth and Support Working Group** tabled a paper outlining a proposed consultation process for economic development projects in the Barkly. The co-Chair raised concerns around engaging members, particularly local business owners, and the lack of Aboriginal representation in the Working Group. It was agreed Land Council representation on the Working Group would be important.
- A presentation outlining the proposed design principles for the Tennant Creek Visitor Park was presented to the **Tennant Creek Visitor Park Working Group**. Once feedback is confirmed, a project plan will be sent to the Table for endorsement. Initial designs will be drafted and tabled at an upcoming meeting.
- The **Regional Workforce Strategy Working Group** is scheduled to meet on 14th July 2021.
- The **Crisis Youth Support Working Group** is in its initial stages; setting goals and reviewing its Terms of Reference
- The Table agreed to a place-based evaluation framework for the Barkly Regional Deal and its collective impact partnership approach.

Key Discussions

- The Table discussed transition to the Ongoing Governance Table and the establishment of the Barkly Aboriginal Alliance. Stage 2 consultation on the Aboriginal Alliance structure commenced in May 2021. The Table agreed the Aboriginal Alliance requires ongoing budgeting and secretariat arrangements..
- The Table noted the importance of progressing two key communications pieces; firstly, to tell the story of the Deal to the broader community, particularly the consultation and selection process that led to the 28 initiatives.; and secondly, to share information and good news stories for individuals and businesses moving to the Barkly.

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- Venture Housing provided an update on its revised proposal to deliver the New Housing Builds initiative, which includes the construction of affordable rental properties and homes for shared equity Aboriginal home ownership. The Table noted the need to include Native Title holders in decision-making about housing builds.
- The Backbone team provided an update on the Community Planning process being undertaken as part of the Local Community Projects Fund.
- Data collection for the Government Investment and Service System Reform is underway for the early childhood sector, following consultation with government and service providers.
- The Access to Justice in the Barkly group delivered a presentation seeking the Table's endorsement of the 16 recommendations included in the *Access to Justice in the Barkly Report*.
- The Table noted the need for Aboriginal representation on Working Groups and the Governance Table Administration Group.

The following papers were submitted for noting or further consideration:

- Governance Table Transition Paper; outlining the proposed Regional Alliance model and outcomes of the Table representation review.
- Project Brief and recommendations for the development of a trauma-informed care model for the Barkly region.
- Community Planning Submission and Template, outlining the approach taken by the Backbone team toward Community Planning to date; and the proposed planning process going forward.
- New Housing Builds and Urban Housing Demographics Update.
- Letter from the Aboriginal Corporations Leadership Group to the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities regarding the Youth Justice Facility service provision.

Other Project Highlights

- The Table considered a grant application for the Local Community Projects Fund.
- The weather radar project is on track and consultation with Traditional Owners will progress shortly.
- Sports Australia visited the Barkly from 10th-14th May to consult on challenges and opportunities for remote sports outreach.

Agreed Decisions

- Table members agreed on the following:
 - Agreed to seek quotes for a Deal communications and engagement strategy

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- Agreed to the proposed arrangements for the inaugural Alliance and Governance Table meetings on 6th-7th September; including an additional workshop with members prior to the first meeting.
- Agreed to the development of a draft *Partnership Statement* between the Governance Table and the Barkly Aboriginal Alliance.
- Agreed to strengthen the process through which community members can engage with the Table through sector representatives; and to endorse the development of a formal process for considering future requests for a seat on the Table.
- Agreed with respect to the ongoing form and function of the governance structure, to be reviewed every two years:
 - Table chairing function – An external provider is engaged for a two-year term.
 - Number of representatives per sector – Remain 2 representatives per sector/organisation/government.
 - Secretariat support for sectors – Backbone team provides secretariat support for sector groups.
- Agreed in-principle support for continuing discussions towards a funding agreement with Venture Housing for New Housing Builds, on the condition that the funding agreement is acceptable to all parties in terms of benefit for Aboriginal people.
- Agreed to publically disseminate an abridged Traffic Light Report.
- Agreed on the proposed planning process for Community Plans.
- Endorsed the trauma informed care model for the Barkly region.
- Agreed that the Table act as an interim Steering Committee for the Government Investment and Service System Reform work.
- Approved the use of place-based and U-MEL evaluation guidelines to inform the evaluation of the Deal and its collective impact approach.
- Agreed for the Backbone team to progress communications material to better inform the community about the Deal and its governance.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for 6 September 2021.