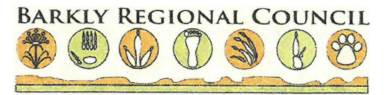




Australian Government



Barkly Regional Deal Statement of Intent

between the

**The Commonwealth of Australia and
The Northern Territory Government and
The Barkly Regional Council**

This **Statement of Intent** recognises the vision and aspiration of the Barkly community to build a stronger, prosperous and inclusive region for current and future generations. Responding to the economic and social challenges facing the region and making the most of new opportunities, is dependent on the determination and leadership of the local community. It acknowledges the strongest asset in the Barkly region is its people. Importantly, it recognises the ongoing connection of Indigenous people to country as traditional owners and custodians of the land. We welcome the involvement of Indigenous leaders and communities in shaping the deal to ensure all aspects of the following commitments meet their aspirations and priorities.

To support the vision and aspiration of the Barkly community, the Commonwealth, Northern Territory Government and Barkly Regional Council commit to:

- **Working together** with the Barkly community to design and implement a Regional Deal that supports the economic growth and social development of the Barkly region
- **Placing local priorities** at the centre of the Regional Deal by working and partnering with the local community, including business leaders, youth and investors
- **Supporting local Aboriginal leadership** to improve social and economic outcomes in recognition of their ongoing connection to country as traditional owners and custodians of the land.



The priority areas for the Barkly Regional Deal include:

Economic development

- Investing in local job creation
- Promoting business growth and attraction in tourism, agribusiness and mining
- Attracting industry investment
- Developing a local workforce strategy.

Social development

- Addressing overcrowding and increasing the supply of housing
- Strengthening family functioning and wellbeing
- Improving education and training outcomes
- Strengthening community safety
- Improving the collaboration, coordination and accountability of services across the region.

Cultural and place-making

- Strengthening community governance and Aboriginal cultural leadership
- Revitalising towns and communities by improving local amenity and investing in community infrastructure
- Promoting and marketing local events.

All parties agree that the Barkly Regional Deal will be developed with consultation, engagement and joint decision-making with local Aboriginal people, including through the cultural authority group.

Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by:

Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie
Minister for Regional Services
Minister for Sport
Minister for Local Government
and Decentralisation

Signed for and on behalf of the Northern Territory Government by:

The Hon Michael Gunner MLA
Chief Minister of the
Northern Territory

Signed for and on behalf of the Barkly Regional Council by:

Mr Steve Edgington
Mayor, Barkly Regional Council