

# Barkly Regional Deal

## Interim Governance Table Communique – 27 October 2020

- The tenth meeting of the Interim Barkly Governance Table (Table) was held on Tuesday 27 October 2020 in Tennant Creek, with some members attending via teleconference.
- The Table welcomed new members Tony Miles, from Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation and Linda Turner, from Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation. Tony and Linda will replace Barb Shaw and Allen Punch from the Combined Aboriginal Organisations. The Table thanked Barb and Allen for their contributions.
- The Table also welcomed Heather Wilson from Elliott and Doris Johnson from Burudu who were invited by the Backbone to attend as guests for the meeting. Heather and Doris shared their views on the regional representation model under development.

### Representation on the Governance Table

- The Table discussed representation of the regional alliance on the Table. Building on discussions from the August meeting, the Table agreed that the work required to form a regional alliance would be complex and that effective engagement with communities will take time.
- The Table discussed the creation of an interim regional alliance to ensure representation of the full Barkly region as soon as possible, all the while progressing the establishment of the ongoing regional alliance model in the first half of 2021.
- The Table also discussed changes to existing sector representation on the Table, and agreed to write again to the Northern Land Council (NLC) and Central Land Council (CLC) inviting them to nominate representatives to join the Table on an interim basis.

### Working Group Updates

- The **Youth Justice Facility Working Group** Co-Chair reported back on recent progress to finalise the design plans for the facility with community.
  - The Table endorsed the joint report submitted by Julalikari and Anyinginyi and agreed to write to Territory Families to seek support for ongoing operational funding for the facility. This would complement the existing \$5.55 million committed by the NT Government for the facility's construction and initial operations.
  - Co-Chair Mark Parsons noted that Julalikari, Anyinginyi and Patta will continue to work with Territory Families on the design plans to ensure it reflects feedback gathered from community.
- The **Economic Growth and Support Working Group** worked hard to develop a submission for the Barkly region to the NT Government's 'Territory Economic Recovery Committee' for Operation Rebound.
  - The submission identified six priorities: 1) a railway line from Tennant Creek to Townsville with an integrated inland port, transport and logistics hub; 2) growth and support of the pastoral and agribusiness sector; 3) tourism and creative arts infrastructure; 4) growth of the energy and renewables sector; 5) developing social infrastructure; and 6) improving telecommunications.
  - The Group is focused on planning for the Barkly Futures Forum to be held in February 2021 and the Deal's Economic Growth Strategy.

- An exciting development from the **Tennant Creek Visitor Park Working Group** was tabled, with a site recommended to the Table for its endorsement, which was accepted by the Table.
  - The recommended site is located opposite the Tennant Creek Hospital, motor vehicle registry, and will be located next to the new BRADAAG facility (subject to planning processes and site survey results).
  - The site was the fifth option considered by the Group after significant work by the Group with the NT Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL) and community members to understand the needs of community members. There was strong consensus from community on the site.
  - Next steps for the project will be for Barkly Regional Council and DIPL to work together on relevant checks and approvals for the recommended site.

### Key Discussions

- The Chairpersons of Anyinginyi and Julalikari, Linda Turner and Ross Williams respectively, were invited with guests Mick Gooda, Dean Gooda and Heather Burton to speak about the importance of a culturally-appropriate and therapeutic approach to designing and operating the Youth Justice Facility.
- Tony Considine from the NT Department of Education presented an update on community consultation undertaken for the Student Boarding Facility. So far, consultation has focused on governance, design and safety elements. A further three consultations will occur with Barkly communities outside Tennant Creek over the coming months and into early 2021 to firm up these elements.
- Discussion on the Barkly Jobs Profile and the corresponding workforce strategy. The Economic Growth and Support Working Group will consider the next steps including a targeted consultation with business, job seekers and job service providers. The Table noted the importance of a pre-employment trial for the Barkly.
- The Barkly Sports Officers provided an update on the range of sports events held in the Barkly recently and the development of the Barkly Sports Hub. The Hub will serve as a coordinating body for sport in the Barkly and liaise with peak sporting bodies.
- The three government partners and the Backbone will work together to organise a public event for early 2021 to celebrate the Deal's achievements and collectively confirm commitment to the Deal's objectives.

### Other Project Highlights

- Site confirmed for the Crisis Youth Support Accommodation by Julalikari, with the community co-design process to now kick off.
- The Table noted the importance of progressing the Service System Reform initiative with community input. The Backbone will work with the government partners to finalise membership of the project Steering Committee.

### Agreed Decisions

1. That the Table will write to the NLC and CLC inviting them to join the Table on an interim basis.
2. That the Table accept the site recommendation from the Visitor Park Working Group, to be located opposite the Tennant Creek Hospital.
3. That the Table endorse the principles and recommendations from the Anyinginyi and Julalikari submission the Youth Justice Facility Working Group and that the Table write to the CEO of Territory Families seeking support for ongoing operational funding for the facility, to complement the NT Government's existing \$5.55 million commitment to the project.
4. That the Barkly Regional Council to support consultation in remote communities for the Student Boarding Facility by including it on upcoming Local Authority meeting agendas.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for 8 December 2020.