



Barkly Regional Deal

First meeting of joint government-community governance table, February 2019

The development of the Barkly Regional Deal reached an important milestone with the first meeting of the joint government and community governance table on 21 and 22 February 2019 at the Barkly Regional Council chambers. Community representatives from across the Barkly region and the three levels of government met to discuss the priorities for the Barkly Regional Deal and how government and the Barkly community will create a partnership to improve economic, social and cultural outcomes across the region over the life of the 10 year Regional Deal.

The governance table will be responsible for advising all three levels of government about the types of economic, social and cultural initiatives that will benefit the region over the next 10 years, co-designing new programs and services to be delivered, and improving the effectiveness and performance of existing services. A key responsibility will be consulting and working with the broader Barkly community to bring their local knowledge, ideas and voices to the table. This will include the formation of working groups with membership open to all interested parties.

An interim table has been established for 2019 and includes two nominees from the Patta Aboriginal Corporation, the cultural authority group, Combined Aboriginal Organisations Group, the Barkly business community, the non-government sector, youth, the Barkly Regional Council, Northern Territory Government and Commonwealth Government (list of members below). The future composition and make-up of the table will be determined after further consultation.

Over the two day meeting, the local governance table discussed the proposed initiatives that are being considered for the Barkly Regional Deal as part of the joint \$60 million commitment from the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Government in December 2018. The various initiatives are based on the ideas and suggestions put forward by the Barkly community over the last eight months since the Barkly Regional Deal was announced in July 2018, including the two consultation rounds in October and December 2018. The table's advice will be carefully considered by Federal and Territory Ministers when making funding decisions over coming weeks.

Discussions over the two days were honest, respectful and frank. Members were united by their hope for a better future and strong commitment to work together to improve outcomes for the people of the Barkly region. There was a strong sense that the Barkly Regional Deal offers a great opportunity for the Barkly community and the three levels of government to find better ways of working together.

Looking ahead, the governance table will play a critical role in the reform of government funded and delivered services in the Barkly region. This is an important element of the Barkly Regional Deal and will help ensure government investments in the Barkly region are more effective, better co-ordinated, and respond to local priorities and needs.

The final Barkly Regional Deal is on track to be announced in the coming months.

The table will meet regularly to advise on and oversee implementation of the Barkly Regional Deal. Community members are encouraged to talk with the interim members about the Barkly Regional Deal and become involved in the working groups to share ideas and suggestions to create a better future for the region.

Interim members:

Patta Aboriginal Corporation: Daryl Fitz, Kym Brahim

Cultural authority group: Linda Turner, Ronald Plummer

Aboriginal Organisations: Barb Shaw, Allen Punch

Youth: Tshanka Storey, Tyler Horwood

Non-government organisations: Kevin Banbury, Sharen Lake

Barkly business community: Karan Hayward, Tony Civitarese

Barkly Regional Council: Steve Moore, Mark Parsons

Northern Territory Government: Bridgette Bellenger, Craig Kelly

Commonwealth Government: Chris Faris, Doug Peacock

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Key points:

- The Barkly local governance table met for the first time on 21 and 22 February 2019.
- The table includes all three levels of government and a cross-section of community members from across the Barkly region working together.
- The table discussed the various proposals being considered as part of the \$60 million Barkly Regional Deal.
- The proposals emerged from eight months of community consultations since the Barkly Regional Deal was announced in July 2018.
- Final decisions on government spending will be taken by Federal and Territory Ministers and announced soon as part of the Barkly Regional Deal.
- Members will be responsible for sharing information with the broader Barkly community about the design and delivery of initiatives, and ensure local voices are heard and considered.
- Working groups will be formed to provide opportunities for more community members to be involved in the ongoing design and implementation of the Barkly Regional Deal.
- All members of the table were united by hope they can work together to make the most of this opportunity for the people of the Barkly and create a better future for the region.