

Interim Barkly Governance Table Out of Session Meeting

Monday 4 November 2019 Communiqué

1. The Barkly Interim Governance Table (the Table) came together for an out of session meeting on 4 November 2019 for the purpose of considering a recommendation made by the Youth Justice Facility Working Group in relation to a site for the Facility.
2. The out of session meeting was called by the Backbone Chair of the Table in order for the Working Group's recommendation to be considered in a timely way, noting the need for the facility to be available to the youth of the Barkly as a priority for the Table and for the Barkly Community.
3. The co-chairs' of the Youth Justice Facility Working Group provided an update on the site selection process and briefed the table on the recommendation that was made by the working group as follows;
4. "The Working Group's recommendation is for the Facility to be built on a site further away from the Tennant Creek Township with a preference for the Youth Justice Facility to be built on Aboriginal land. The Peko site is the working groups' first preference. If the Peko site is not viable for procurement to commence by 31 December 2019, then Juno would be the preferred site. The Youth Justice Facility and Service Model Working Group recommend the need to have transport accessibility embedded into the model if the site selected is not in town."
5. In considering the Working Group's recommendation the Governance Table Members' representative of the Patta Aboriginal Corporation, the Barkly Regional Council and the Northern Territory Government declared a conflict of interest and participated in the discussion, excusing themselves for the final recommendation.
6. The Table considered the recommendation from the Youth Justice Facility Working Group and reached the following recommendation to the Northern Territory Government by consensus;
7. The Table endorse the Youth Justice Facility Working Group's recommendation for the Facility to be built on the Peko Road site on Native Title land. The Table emphasise the importance of focussed efforts to achieve construction on Native Title land and sought to remove a reference to a Juno site as an alternative. The Table also recognised that timely procurement of the site is important and recommend that negotiations to procure access to the land commence prior to 31 December 2019. The Table endorse the Working Group's recommendation that transport accessibility be embedded into the service model.
8. In reaching this recommendation the Table noted the working group's concerns in relation to limitations of the public consultation process that was undertaken. The Table in line with the working group placed emphasis on the public consultation results and acknowledged the public's preference for a site further from town. In considering this the Table viewed the Juno Road site and the Peko Road sites as both fulfilling this criteria.
9. The Table placed emphasis on the working group's recommendation that the facility be built on Native Title land and discussed the Peko Road site's alignment with the priorities of economic and social development and culture and place making under the Barkly Regional Deal.
10. The Table expressed confidence in Territory Families relationship with the Youth Justice Facility Working Group and reflected that the final recommendation represents a milestone in the implementation of this initiative and of local decision-making under the Barkly Regional Deal.

Agreed Decisions

The Table agreed:

1. To receive a briefing from the Northern Territory Government at the next Barkly Interim Governance Table meeting on the 21 November 2019 in relation to the progress made on site procurement.
2. For the Table to provide an update through the co-chairs back to the Youth Justice Facility Working Group in relation to the recommendation that has been made by the Table at the next working group meeting.