

Barkly Regional Deal

Interim Governance Table Communique – 30 June 2020

- The eighth meeting of the Interim Barkly Governance Table (Table) was held on Tuesday 30 June 2020 in Tennant Creek, with some members attending via video conference. The Table welcomed new youth representative, Alyne Fry-Croydon, to her first meeting. Alyne is a passionate Tennant Creek local who has impressed in her commitment to the youth of Tennant Creek. Alyne currently works as a consultant for Rise-Ngurratjuta.
- Throughout the meeting, the Table considered how the Barkly Regional Deal can help to both coordinate and drive economic recovery activities across the region in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Deal's key objectives. This included discussion of what projects in the Deal could be accelerated to support economic activity, and how best to co-ordinate with the Northern Territory Government's Operation Rebound.
- The Table reviewed progress to date and noted that the Deal remains on track despite some disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic across governments and communities. Key highlights included:
 - Approval of an activity program for the community sports initiative, which will a number of sporting activities kicking off in coming weeks.
 - Progress on major community infrastructure, with the Alpururulam skate park tender issued, Tennant Creek Youth Centre going to tender in coming weeks and the bike path project progressing.
 - Review of preliminary designs for the Youth Justice Facility;
 - An update on the workforce strategy, and plans for a Barkly Business Futures Forum in coming months.
- The Table noted good progress and continued engagement from the community across most initiatives despite disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic across governments and communities. Key highlights included:
 - Continuing to hold working group meetings via video conferencing, with the Backbone team playing an important role in supporting the co-chairs to hold meetings despite travel restrictions with an increase in community participation during the pandemic.
 - Progressing the Regional Workforce Strategy initiative, including completing further jobs profiles across sectors in the Barkly region; and
 - Developing draft guidelines for the Barkly Community Projects Fund initiative.
- With the lifting of travel restrictions, the Backbone team will be visiting communities outside of Tennant Creek to consult on community action plans and refreshed governance arrangements with broader regional representation.

Working Group Co-chair Reports

- The co-chairs of the **Youth Justice Facility and Service Model Working Group** briefed the Table on the working group meetings held on 30 April, 15 May and 29 May 2020.
 - A site has been selected for the facility and land use agreements are being negotiated with Patta Aboriginal Corporation.
 - Design plans for the facility were presented to the Table for endorsement following community consultation undertaken by the working group. This included liaising with Local Authorities to survey communities, including Tara and Canteen Creek.

- The co-chairs recommended that a steering committee be assembled from members of the working group to inform the development of the service model with lead agency Territory Families. Members were nominated by the working group based on their expertise in youth justice issues.
- The co-chairs of the **Tennant Creek Visitor Park Working Group** briefed the Table on the working group meetings held on 23 April and 7 May 2020.
 - The Terms of Reference for the group had been settled, and a survey on potential sites had been finalised. A short list of sites is being developed by the Working Group for the Table's consideration.
 - The working group is continuing to provide feedback on the Community Consultation Strategy for the project, which will provide more information about the project to the Barkly community.
- Discussion of the **Economic Growth and Support Working Group** focused on how to settle the group's Terms of Reference, after an invitation from NT Chief Minister Michael Gunner was received for the group to oversee the NT Government's 'Operation Rebound' response in the Barkly.
 - The Table agreed to update the Terms of Reference to include responsibility for Operation Rebound, and to also reflect that the group is responsible for the functions of the disbanded Barkly Regional Economic Development Committee.
 - The Table agreed for Jared Baldwin, as the Table's business sector representative to assume chairing responsibilities for the group, with a deputy chair of the group to be appointed at a later date. The Table agreed it was important that the private sector plays a leading role in overseeing economic development and the Deal's economic projects.

Key Updates

- The Table received an update on the Community Sports initiative and discussed reactivating community sport, building community sports leadership, and maximising use of current sports infrastructure across the Barkly. The Community Sports Activity Plan was endorsed, which should see an increase in organised sporting activity in coming weeks.
- The Table received an update on the Local Community Projects Fund, and agreed that the draft guidelines should be refined for the Table to agree out-of-session. The Table agreed to move unspent funding from the 2019-20 financial year to the 2020-21 financial year; to establish an Assessment Panel of interim Governance Table members to oversee its operation; and aim to open the first application round in coming months alongside completion of Community Action Plans.
- The Table received an update on the 'Access to Justice in the Barkly' report from two guest speakers from the University of Technology Sydney, Professors Chris Cunneen and Fiona Allison.
- The Table received an update from the Backbone Team on the Barkly Regional Governance Support Resource Grant, Community Planning Strategy, the Monitoring and Evaluation proposal, and the Barkly Regional Deal website which is under development.
- The Table received an update from the NT Department of Trade, Business and Innovation on the projects falling under the Deal's Regional Workforce Strategy initiative including: COVID-19 impacts in the Barkly Region; Barkly Region Jobs Profile; Barkly Workforce Plan; the Juno Jobs Project; and the Barkly Futures Forum.

- The next Barkly Interim Governance Table Meeting is scheduled for 25 August 2020.

Agreed Decisions

The Table made the following decisions:

- To incorporate responsibility for the NT Government's 'Operation Rebound' into the Terms of Reference for the Economic Growth and Support Working Group, with Terms of Reference to be confirmed and endorsed by the Table. The Table also agreed that the working group would be chaired by a business sector representative from the Table, with a deputy chair to be appointed.
- To establish an Assessment Panel for the Local Community Projects Fund, with five Table members to nominate for the Panel (with each project application to be assessed by **three** Panel members, allowing Panel members to excuse themselves where there may be a conflict of interest). The decision making body will be the Governance Table.
- To endorse the draft Sports Activity Plan which will see more sport scheduled over the school holidays and over the coming months.
- To refine the draft Local Community Projects Fund Guidelines and circulate to the Table by late July 2020. To re-profile 2019-20 funding for the Local Community Projects Fund over two financial years (2020-21 and 2021-22).
- To establish a Barkly Regional Deal Interim Governance Table Administrative Group (Administrative Group) to support the Executive Officer of the Backbone:
 - Administrative Group authorised, on behalf of the Table, to make necessary administrative decisions between Table meetings.
 - The members of the Group are: Chris Faris, Steve Moore, Barb Shaw, Craig Kelly and Kevin Banbury.
- That the Executive Officer of the Backbone Team will submit quarterly financial reports to the Table for endorsement to provide the Table with oversight of the Backbone's operation.