

Barkly Regional Deal

Interim Governance Table Communique – 25 August 2020

- The ninth 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. A key focus for the Table at the meeting was how the Deal is being delivered and what is needed to ensure all governments and the community are working together in line with the objectives of the Deal and the values of the Barkly community.
- The Table strongly agreed that finalising the representation of the Barkly's regional communities on the Table is critical, and reaffirmed that this work should be progressed by the Backbone team as a top priority over the coming months.
- The Table also recognised that the ways of working together should evolve as the Deal matures and that all levels of government should continue to look out for ways to support collaboration and shared-decision making with community, alongside key sectors and business.
- The Table agreed that the Backbone team would work with the *Stronger Places, Stronger People* initiative over the coming months to begin mapping the progress of the Deal and its impact on community-led change. The Table agreed that this work could be started, but would need to be completed with the permanent Table once regional representatives are identified.

Project Highlights

- Key project updates across the Deal's 28 initiatives included:
 - Completion of the draft Barkly Jobs Profile through the Regional Workforce Strategy, with the final Strategy expected to be launched in October 2020;
 - Confirmation that the Barkly Business Hub will be located at the NT Government Centre on Peko Road in Tennant Creek;
 - Construction underway for the first 10 dwellings under the 'new housing builds' initiative, with these expected to be completed in September 2020, with construction of the remaining 12 houses expected to start in late 2020;
 - Completion of a report identifying appropriate models of child care for the Barkly region which included nine big ideas and solutions to improve the quality and equity of child care services across the Barkly;
 - Circulating updated guidelines for the Barkly Community Projects Fund initiative for finalising ahead of the Assessment Panel meeting in early September 2020; and
 - Design workshop held for the 'government investment and service system reform' initiative in late July 2020 to refine the project's scope for community consultation, with nominations sought from the Table to join the project team.

Working Group Updates

- The Chair of the **Economic Growth and Support Working Group** provided an update on the Expression of Interest process recently undertaken to fill positions in the Group.
 - There was strong interest from across the Barkly community and beyond to join the Working Group, with five people selected initially, with remaining positions to be filled through future EOI process.
 - A key priority for the Group will be to provide a list of investment priorities to NT Government's Operation Rebound.
 - A future focus for the Group will include progressing plans for the Deal's \$300,000 economic growth strategy initiative, which is expected to identify key strategic economic opportunities for the Barkly region.
- A presentation on the community survey undertaken by the **Tennant Creek Visitor Park Working Group** was tabled and Damien Burton from the NT Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics gave an update on work to identify potential site locations for the Visitor Park.
- Verbal updates from the co-chairs of the **Youth Justice Facility and Service Model Working Group** and the **Visitor Park Working Group** were held over for the next meeting due to time constraints.
 - Due to the absence of the relevant Table members, a paper regarding the Youth Justice Facility was tabled but not discussed by the Table and would be circulated by the Backbone out of session. **Other Key Discussions**
- The Table received an update on the co-design process for a National Indigenous Voice to Parliament from Sam Jeffries from the National Indigenous Australians Agency.
- The Table noted the concerns around food security in light of the fire at the Tennant Creek IGA in early July 2020, and the importance of responding quickly and effectively to ensure that communities in the Barkly have reliable access to fresh food and other essential supplies.
- The Table received an update from Liam Ridgeway from Ngakkan Nyaagu, the 100% Aboriginal-owned digital services agency that is working with the Backbone team to build the Backbone's website.
 - Liam explained that Ngakkan Nyaagu's philosophy focuses on engaging with projects that help preserve and enhance Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and that the Deal aligned well with this philosophy.
 - The website will allow information about the Deal to be shared easily with the public, such as data gathered through the Deal's service system reform project and monitoring and evaluation activities. The website will also promote government accountability in relation to the implementation of the 28 Deal initiatives. A draft version of the website is expected to be ready for the Table's consideration by the end of September, and launched in the first week of October 2020.
- The Backbone welcomed its new staff members, Margot Eliason who has taken the position of Community Engagement Lead and Erin Elkin as Senior Project Officer.

Agreed Decisions

1. That the representation of the Barkly's regional homelands and communities is a critical priority for the Deal and that the Backbone team will focus on engaging with these communities on the best model to get the 'bush voice' properly onto the Table.
2. That initial progress mapping work with Stronger Places, Stronger People can commence, but that this work will need to be finalised once the Table moves to its permanent structure.
3. The Table agreed that the Backbone team would work with the *Stronger Places, Stronger People* initiative across September and October to map the progress of the way of working and to empower community-led change. The Table agreed that this work could be started, but would need to be completed with the permanent Table once regional representatives are identified.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 27 October 2020.

