



Barkly Regional Deal

Interim Governance Table Communique – 23 February 2021

- The eleventh meeting of the Interim Barkly Governance Table (the Table) was held on Tuesday 23 February 2021 in Tennant Creek, with some members attending via teleconference.
- The table welcomed new member Joe Martin-Jard from Central Land Council (CLC). Marion Scrymgour from Northern Land Council (NLC) passed on her apologies as she was called away on urgent business on short notice.

Working Group Updates

- The Economic Growth Strategy Working Group (EGSWG) noted they are making good progress with meetings, including planning for the Barkly Futures Forum and engaging with the Acting Prime Minister during his recent visit. A consultant has been engaged to facilitate discussions on how to make best use of the funding allocated to the ECSWG, which will be happening in coming weeks.
- The Visitor Park Working Group is currently focussing mainly on the site layout and operational requirements of the Park. Engagement with remote communities about the operational requirements is also ongoing, in anticipation of the next meeting in March.
- The Table discussed the number of working groups associated with the deal, and agreed to be mindful of the number of active groups to ensure robust engagement of community and Table members without overstretching.

Key Discussions

- The Table noted good progress across the 28 initiatives, with notable progress on the youth infrastructure initiative, and continuing strong engagement from the community sports initiative. The Table also welcomed two new Backbone Team members, Lucy McGarry (who presented on measuring and learning) and Anya Thomas (governance).
- Joe Martin-Jard from the CLC advised that they had received a share of the \$100 million as part of the Northern Territory Indigenous Economic Stimulus Package, which could be used to provide support to Aboriginal businesses and jobs in the NT. The Table had some discussions about the opportunities for this funding, including to supplement projects identified under the Deal's Community Projects Fund.
- The Table discussed how to work through some of the current situations with young people in Tennant Creek. It was agreed there needs to be a discussion with all the stakeholders; and a hard conversation about how to develop a way forward. The table acknowledge the importance of maintaining a strategic, long-term approach to the Service System Reform work and acknowledged that the upcoming Youth Forum which is being led by NTG Youth Coordinator Steve Hirvonen will be a good place for this discussion to be held. The Table acknowledged the forum would form a good baseline to build in the Service System Reform initiatives focus on Youth Services, which is planned to commence in April 2021.
- The Table discussed the Community Living Areas paper from NTG, including the accreditation process currently underway to allow the handover of specific maintenance services to Julalikari, and noted the complexities of the current service model. A further update will be provided to the next Table meeting.

- The Northern Territory Government proposed a Barkly Regional Child and Families Committee for people in the region to discuss issues in this space and provide a direct line of communication to the Northern Territory Government. This was supported by the Table, with further discussions on how to amend the draft terms of reference for the Barkly context.
- Following the completion of the shortlisting process, a panel composition was agreed for the recruitment of the new Backbone Team Executive Officer.

Other Project Highlights

- Drawings for the Youth Recreation Centre were tabled; construction will commence in coming weeks and the build is due for completion around August this year.
- The Barkly Backbone delivered presentations for the Regional Alliance Model and the Learning and Measuring work, including broad work plans and community engagement processes.

Agreed Decisions

- The Table agreed to decide the permanent structure of the Governance Table at the June meeting, with the following BRD meeting in August being one with the permanent Governance Table members.
- The table agreed to form two new Working Groups – the Crisis Youth Support Working Group and the Maximising Aboriginal Employment and Workforce Strategy Working Group – and to establish the Northern Territory Government Barkly Regional Child and Families Committee, subject to amending the terms of reference for the Barkly context. It was also agreed to establish a working group to support the monitoring and learning work.
- The Table was presented with a proposal from the BRC to progress four projects from Council funds previously allocated to the Community Project Fund. The GT endorsed the four projects, noting that:
 1. The projects were community-driven through Local Authorities;
 2. The projects were not considered by the Assessment Panel;
 3. The projects would be recognised as Barkly Regional Deal projects; and
 4. The future proposals will be considered against the agreed program Guidelines and processes (when circulated).
- The Table agreed that external providers looking to do work relating to the BRD should be required to specify how they will engage with Native Title Holders, and that this requirement for engagement will also be included in the BRD Handbook.
- A proposal from the BRC to seek funding to redevelop the Battery Hill Mining Centre was endorsed by the Table (with the Commonwealth members abstaining, as funding is being sought from the Commonwealth). The BRC proposed to seek funding from the current round of the Building Better Regions Fund, but there may be other opportunities for funding.
- The Table noted the importance of driving forward the Government Investment and Service System Reform work, the Table agreed to seek to engage a consultant in order to help accelerate this work.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for 27 April 2021.