



Barkly Regional Deal

Governance Table Communique – 22 February 2022

- The third meeting of the Barkly Governance Table (the Table) was held on Tuesday 22 February 2022 in Tennant Creek, with some members attending via teleconference. This meeting followed thirteen previous meetings of the Interim Governance Table.
- The Table welcomed Sean Gordon as the Independent Chair for the Table. Sean chaired his first meeting and brings experience establishing and working with regional governance tables through Empowered Communities.
- The Table welcomed new members Emma Bradbury from Barkly Regional Council, Georgina Bracken from the Community Network, and Corey McDowell and Valerie Swan from the Barkly Aboriginal Alliance.

Working Group Updates

- The **Economic Growth and Support Working Group** advised that Remote Strategy Plus will be supporting the Group to develop the Barkly Economic Growth Strategy. Four regional workshops will be held over the following months to support the development of the Economic Growth Strategy.
- The **Regional Workforce Strategy Working Group** met on 18 January 2022. The Group considered and endorsed an approach paper that outlines a forward work plan for the Regional Workforce Strategy. The approach has the two components: developing and upskilling individuals; and working with industry sectors across the region.
A report will be developed and presented to the Group on a quarterly basis that shows employment data associated with each of the Barkly Regional Deal initiatives.
- The **Crisis Youth Support Working Group** met on 16 February 2022 and reviewed a community survey, finding the results were largely aligned with Group's prior discussions. Some parameters of the crisis accommodation model have been established and the next step is a workshop to design a proposal for the service model.
- The **Visitor Park Working Group** are awaiting the decision from the Development Consent Authority on the sub-division of the preferred site for the Visitor Park before it can progress into the design and construct phases.
- The **Systems Change Design Team** has met three times with a focus on developing a service system reform model for the Barkly. At the next workshop, the Team will be conducting a trial run to test a proposed model by using a common issue raised through the community planning.
- The **Measuring Change Working Group** presented a Story of Change and the draft evaluation framework for the Barkly Regional Deal that will be used to evaluate the Deal and the collaborative 'working in the middle space' approach.

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Key Discussions

- We Al-li updated the Table on the delivery of the first two workshops in Tennant Creek under the Trauma-Informed Care initiative. The Table endorsed We Al-li's proposal to revise the delivery timeframe for the initiative to maximise support for regional engagement in the workshops and the recruitment of local healing champions.
- The Backbone Team briefed the Table on the updates required to the Governance Table Handbook to reflect the establishment and role of the Barkly Aboriginal Alliance.
- The Table determined that the Barkly Regional Deal needs to establish a Strategic Plan which takes into consideration the future of the Barkly Aboriginal Alliance and the current Table members before reviewing the Governance Table Handbook.
- Red Splash communications agency presented a draft communications framework for the Barkly Regional Deal to meet the Table's desire in building community and stakeholder awareness and engagement with the Deal.
- The Table decided that communications will be further informed by the Strategic Plan and agreed that the Barkly Aboriginal Alliance and Barkly community need to have a strong voice in the messaging around the Barkly Regional Deal.
- The Table heard a presentation from the University of Queensland on their research, in partnership with Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation, on how housing and crowding can affect short- and long-term health outcomes.
- The Barkly Aboriginal Alliance presented a revised model for representation of the Barkly communities and homelands that is not based solely on the region's language groups. The Alliance will continue to build engagement across the regions over the course of 2022.
- The Commonwealth National Indigenous Australians Agency informed the Table that a local co-designed group is being established for the Remote Engagement Program trial in the Barkly (to replace the Community Development Program).
- The Backbone Team provided an update on the community plans, which have now been created for all major communities and many of the Barkly homelands. The Table discussed options for progressing the plans and how to address community priorities.

Agreed Decisions

- The Table made the following decisions:
 - Agreed to the proposed approach and work plan for the Regional Workforce Strategy Working Group.
 - Agreed that the Regional Workforce Strategy Working Group, working with the three levels of government, set targets for Aboriginal procurement and employment for future projects in the Deal based on workforce demographics.

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- Agreed to the quarterly collection of employment data related to the Barkly Regional Deal.
- Agreed to an out-of-session review of the Crisis Youth Safe Places service model proposal once finalised by the Crisis Youth Support Working Group.
- Endorsed the story of change that forms the basis of the evaluation framework for the Barkly Regional Deal and its collaborative, 'working in the middle space' approach.
- Endorsed the vision and principles of the Barkly Regional Deal as key components that guide the work of the Table and to measure, reflect on and improve that work.
- Endorsed the vision and principles being included in the Governance Table Handbook, terms of reference for working groups and other Barkly Regional Deal documents.
- Endorsed the translation of the vision and principles into the 11 Barkly languages.
- Endorsed the following feedback mechanisms to ensure the findings from the ongoing evaluation are used to develop and improve the Table's work:
 - quarterly measuring, evaluation and learning reports being submitted to the Table identifying key learnings and recommendations for action
 - quarterly measuring, evaluation and learning reports being shared on the Barkly Regional Deal website and with working groups.
- Agreed on the development of a Strategic Plan for the Barkly Regional Deal and long term vision for the Barkly.
- Agreed on the Barkly Aboriginal Alliance having input into the communications about the Barkly Regional Deal.
- Agreed to hold the next Table meeting in Elliott.
- Agreed to hold a Local Community Projects Fund meeting in the next week to make decisions on project applications.

Next Meeting: TBC