

Barkly Regional Deal

Media release – 18 October 2021

The Barkly Regional Deal's Local Community Grant Program

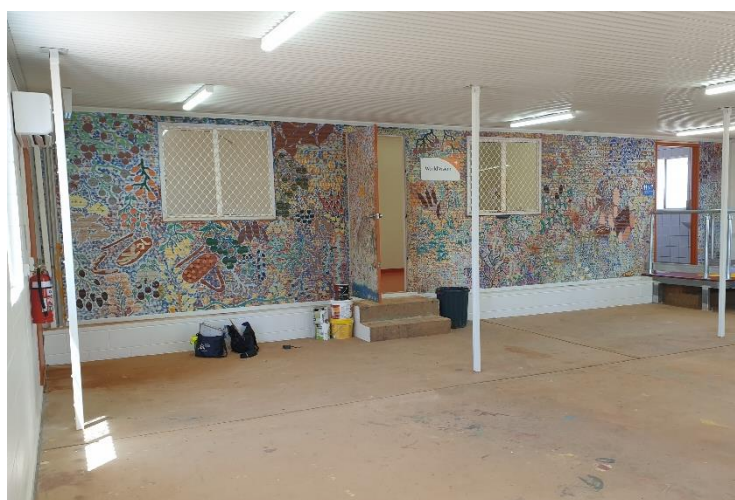
Paints a Bigger Picture for Wutunugurra Artists

The re-birth of a beloved existing space is taking place on Friday 22 October, 2021, fulfilled by the \$230,000 upgrade of the Wutunugurra (Epenarra) Art Centre. This project was initiated by the Wutunugurra Local Authority and funded by the Barkly Regional Deal's Local Community Grants program.

The Wutunugurra community has been without an adequate and comfortable space for people to gather, create art, and pass on cultural knowledge to younger generations. There are many people of Wutunugurra who are accomplished artists, with their stories and talents shared through artworks purchased right around Australia.

The Wutunugurra Local Authority pushed hard to upgrade the existing Wutunugurra Art Centre at Local Authority meetings. After a successful application for a Barkly Regional Deal Community Grant, that vision was finally realised.

The grant has been used for the repair and upgrade of the existing demountable building that was used for storage of art materials and computer records of the artists in Wutunugurra. The upgrade has been built onto the demountable and created an attractive and practical art studio with air conditioning, toilet and shower facilities, and a kitchen.



Wutunugurra Art Centre nearing completion

This newly created community space will allow the multi-generational artists in Wutunugurra to work alongside each other in comfort, passing down knowledge and skills to younger artists, and taking inspiration from each other's work. It will also provide a home base for artist workshops offered by Barkly Regional Arts, and a professional studio space for visitors to the community to drop into.

"It is great to see the successful completion of one of the first Community Grant applications; and we look forward to many more" says Ben Champion, the Executive Officer of the Barkly Regional Deal Backbone Team.

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MPH Projects was awarded the contract to carry out the design and construction of this project and works are now complete. The official opening will be on **Friday 22 October, 2021** at lunch time, **12:00pm**. All are invited to come share in this small part of history.

The grant program is jointly funded by the Australian Government, the Northern Territory Government, and the Barkly Regional Council. It is one of the 28 initiatives under the Barkly Regional Deal. Grant guidelines and application forms are available online at www.barklyregionaldeal.com.au/resources or in hard copy through the Barkly Backbone info@barklybackbone.com.au