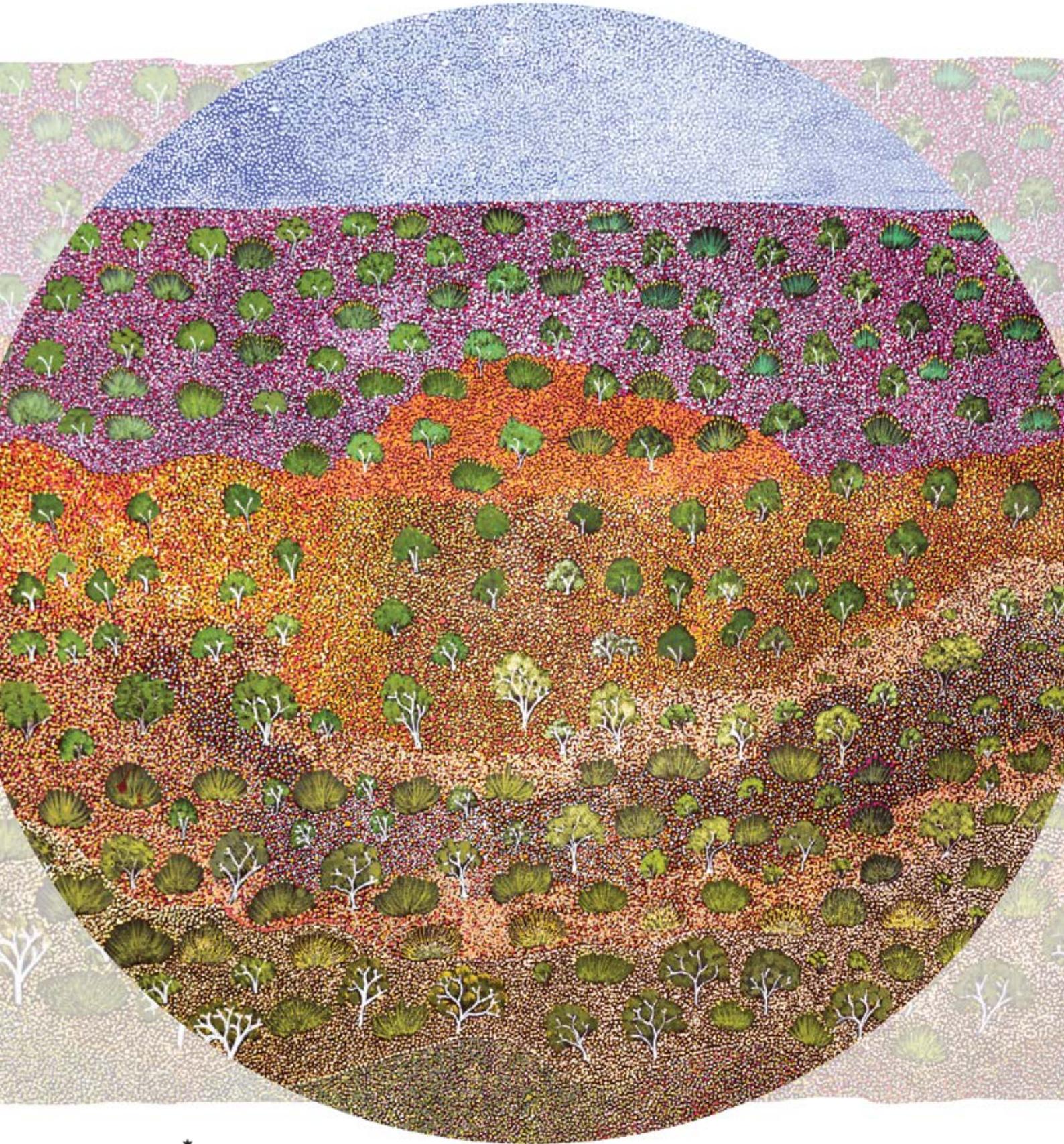
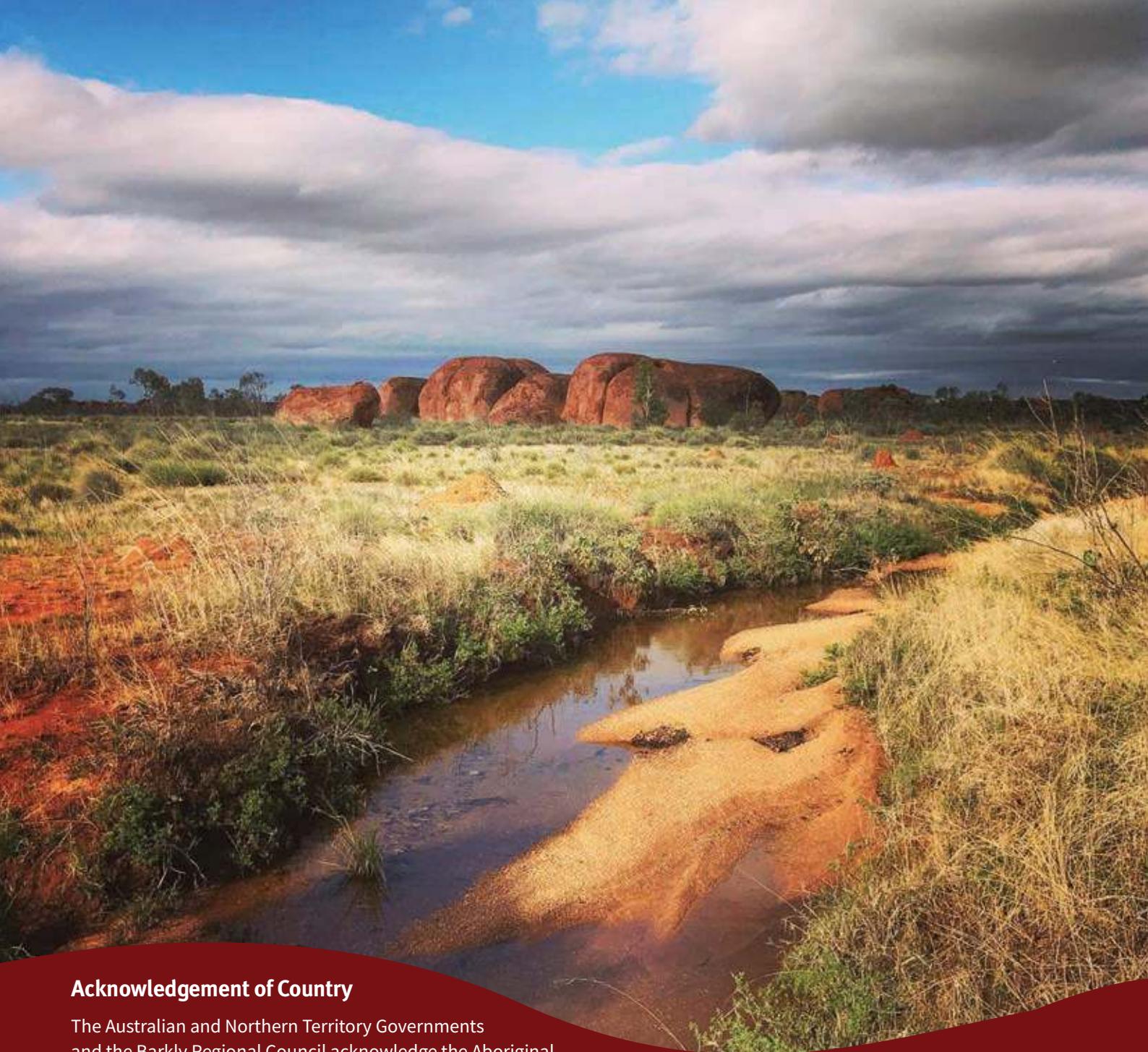


# Barkly Regional Deal Annual Progress Report 2021



Australian Government





## Acknowledgement of Country

The Australian and Northern Territory Governments and the Barkly Regional Council acknowledge the Aboriginal people who live in the Barkly Region. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we strive towards a shared goal of a united community working together. We pay our respects to the ancestors and elders of this land, past and present. We respect the Barkly Aboriginal peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land and waters, and their rich contribution to society. May we continue to work together to deliver sustainable outcomes through a process based on mutual respect and understanding.



The painting is a depiction of the unique landscape surrounding the community of Wetengerr or also named Epenarra. It is described by the Indigenous people as Hill Country. It is partly protected as the Davenport Ranges National Park, including the sites of Whistleduck Creek and Policeman Waterhole. It is referred to as semi-tropical with a unique variety of birds, insects and flora. In Alyawarr, it is called lytwelepeny.



# Elected officials' foreword

Two years in, the Australian Government, Northern Territory Government and Barkly Regional Council continue to work together, in close partnership with community, to deliver the 28 initiatives of the \$78.4 million Barkly Regional Deal. The Deal continues to focus on improving the productivity and liveability of the Barkly region by stimulating economic growth, delivering new critical economic and social infrastructure, and improving social and cultural outcomes for the diverse region.

Despite the ongoing disruptions being felt across Australia in 2021 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, significant progress has been made against a number of key Deal initiatives for the benefit of the Barkly.

Construction is well underway on the Youth Recreation Centre in Tennant Creek; building works have commenced on the Youth Justice Facility and Barkly Business Hub for the benefit of the region; and the Alpururulam skate Park is completed. Through the hard work of local leaders, community members and Working Groups, these projects have been designed and delivered in a way that meets the needs and aspirations of Barkly communities.

Ten new houses have been constructed in Tennant Creek under the Deal's 'New Housing Builds' initiative, which enables current government employee housing to boost the existing public housing stock. With approvals for a further 12 houses in place for construction commencing in 2022, this initiative is adding to the limited social housing and reducing overcrowding in Tennant Creek.

Over the course of 2021, the Barkly Backbone team engaged with Aboriginal communities and homelands across the region to establish the Barkly Aboriginal Alliance. The Alliance is a stand-alone Aboriginal body enabling representatives from the eleven main language groups of the Barkly to collectively make decisions and determine priorities for the region.

All three levels of Government remain committed to achieving the objectives of the Deal and supporting the delivery of long-term reforms and improvements for the region. This commitment was reinforced in a visit to the Barkly in April 2021 where Commonwealth, Territory and Local Government elected officials signed a statement recommitting to the Deal, and confirming our ongoing relationship with the Barkly community.

By working together, in genuine partnership with the Barkly community, we will ensure the region continues to thrive as a great place to live, work and visit.



*Nola Marino*

**The Hon Nola Marino MP**

Assistant Minister for  
Regional Development  
and Territories



*Selena Uibo*

**The Hon Selena Uibo MLA**

Attorney-General and Minister  
for Justice  
Minister for Treaty and Local Decision  
Making  
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs  
Minister for Parks and Rangers



*Jeffrey McLaughlin*

**Cr Jeffrey McLaughlin**

Mayor, Barkly Regional Council

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# Barkly Regional Deal at a Glance

The Barkly Regional Deal is the first regional deal in Australia – a 10-year \$78.4 million commitment between the Australian and Northern Territory Governments and Barkly Regional Council. The Deal is a commitment by all levels of government to work collaboratively with Barkly communities to foster a prosperous and resilient Barkly region that maximises its comparative advantages, celebrates its strengths and adapts to changing circumstances.

To support this objective, the Deal includes 28 initiatives that respond to three community priority areas:

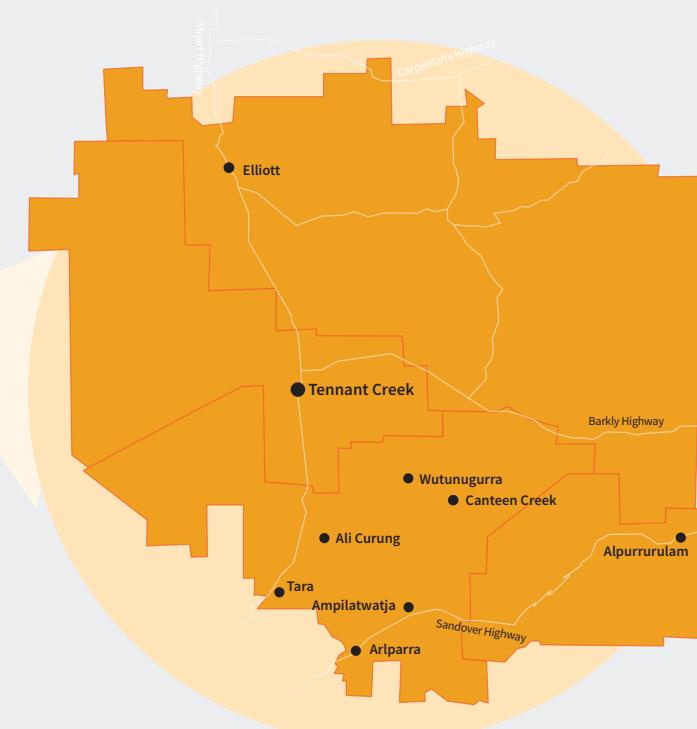
- Economic development
- Social development
- Culture and place making.

This publication provides an update on work undertaken towards implementation of the Deal over the course of 2020 and 2021. It also showcases how the Deal is

helping support broader community collaboration, local decision making and regional governance to harness opportunities for the Barkly that go beyond the identified Deal initiatives.

## Key components of the Barkly Regional Deal

- \$78.4 million package
- 28 economic, social and cultural initiatives
- Community governance framework
- Long-term reform



# Key achievements

- The establishment of the Barkly Aboriginal Alliance is supporting community representation and engagement across the Barkly's diverse Aboriginal language groups.
- Construction of 10 new dwellings in Tennant Creek has been completed, and development approvals have been received for construction of a further 12 houses under the Deal's 'New Housing Builds' initiative.
- Seven grants totaling approximately \$1.3 million have been approved under the Local Community Projects Fund, which supports community-led projects in Barkly communities and homelands. Work is complete on three of the funded projects.
- Work on the Youth Recreation Centre in Tennant Creek is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2022. The Alpurrurulam Skate Park delivered under the Deal's Youth Infrastructure initiative is open to the public.
- The construction tender for the Youth Justice Facility has been awarded with off-site construction underway. This is a milestone for Barkly residents who, over the last 18 months, have selected the location, and co-designed the facility and its operation.
- The Barkly Business Hub design and initial operating model has been agreed in partnership with community members and local businesses. The construction tender has been awarded with construction commenced.
- The Barkly Measuring Change group has been established and is developing an evaluation framework which will ask questions about, and measure the processes and outcomes of the Deal.
- The two-day Barkly Futures Forum in Tennant Creek attracted attendees from across the country and showcased economic and business opportunities in the Barkly.

## Over the next 12 months

Anticipated achievements over the next 12 months include:

- Construction of 12 new Government Employee Houses in Tennant Creek to commence. This will enable existing houses to be added to the Tennant Creek social housing stock.
- Completion and opening of the Youth Recreation Centres in Ali Curung and Tennant Creek.
- Construction of the new Tennant Creek Visitor Park to begin in the second half of 2022, providing short term accommodation or transitional and seasonal visitors from outlying and remote Barkly communities.
- Construction works for the redevelopment of the Peko Road Government Centre as the Barkly Business Hub, with works anticipated to be completed in the second quarter of 2022.
- Community consultation, site selection and commencement of construction works for the Tennant Creek Weather Radar.
- Completion of the Barkly Economic Growth and Regional Workforce strategies.

## SECTION 1

# Regional Governance and Engagement

## *The Barkly Aboriginal Alliance: Supporting Regional Representation and Decision Making*

### **The Aboriginal Communities of the Barkly**

There are over 90 Aboriginal communities and/or homelands across the Barkly, ranging from small outstations to larger towns. The region's population is estimated to be 7,392 with approximately 72 per cent of the population being Indigenous. The Barkly is located on the traditional lands of the Warumungu, Warlmanpa, Jingili, Mudburra, Wambaya, Warlpiri, Kaytetye, Alyawarra, Wakaya, Anmatyerre and Waanyi people who continue to live in the region along with Aboriginal people who hold important historical connections to the area and affiliations to neighbouring and distant groups.

### **The Barkly Aboriginal Alliance**

In February 2020, the Barkly Regional Deal Governance Table endorsed the establishment of the Barkly Aboriginal Alliance – a stand-alone regional Aboriginal representative body enabling representatives from the eleven main language groups in the Barkly to collectively make decisions and determine priorities for the region.

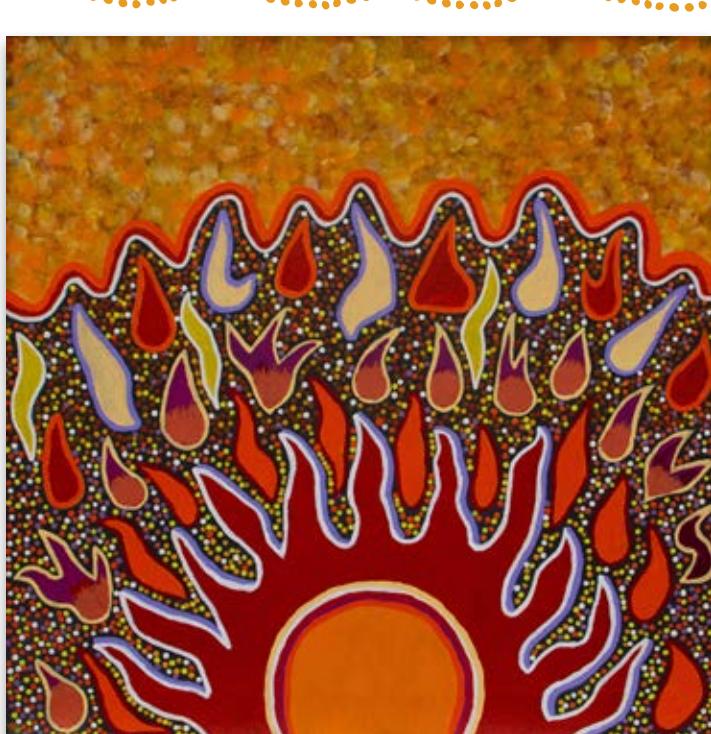
### **Community Consultations and the establishment of the Barkly Aboriginal Alliance**

The Barkly Backbone Team consulted with leaders from 19 communities and homelands across the region on the form, functions and purpose of the Barkly Aboriginal Alliance from February to August 2021. Aboriginal

leaders were asked whether the proposed model for the Alliance was suitable, in particular the use of four 'cultural blocks':

- **Northwest** (Jingili & Mudberra)
- **Northeast** (Wakaya, Wambaya, Waanyi)
- **Central** (Warumungu, Warlpiri, Warlmanpa)
- **Southern** (Alyawarr, Anmatyerre, Kaytetye)

Alliance consultations went through several iterations to incorporate learnings as the process unfolded. The Backbone Team facilitated meetings for each cultural block to discuss the Alliance model, the Barkly Regional Deal and community priorities. With guidance from each community,



*Parda Parda – Sunrise* **Mary James**  
Kulumindini (Elliot)

"This painting shows when you get up in the morning and see the colours"



*Pulka (Old Man)* **Joseph Williams**  
Warumungu

"Old Warumungu Warrior from the past"

the consultation list was narrowed to approximately 70 key community leaders and representatives with whom to maintain an ongoing conversation about the formation of the Alliance.

While the conversations were different in each meeting, everyone who participated agreed the Alliance was a good idea and the model would support Aboriginal representation and participation in the Deal. In particular, people were keen for the Alliance to be an opportunity for young and emerging leaders to learn from older generations.

The cultural-block meetings will continue on a monthly-basis to ensure the right people have ample opportunity to meaningfully shape Alliance priorities, together with other community leaders.

## Barkly Governance Table Participation

The establishment of the Barkly Aboriginal Alliance is a key step in the delivery of the Barkly Regional Deal governance arrangements, and reflects the ongoing transition from a government-led, to a community-led approach in the Barkly.

The Alliance has four seats on the Governance Table - one per cultural block. The Alliance will meet bi-monthly and directly prior to Governance Table meetings in order to review the agenda, discuss its position and priorities, and share information with each cultural block. The Barkly Backbone Team will provide secretariat support to the Alliance.

*“Old and young people should sit together so they can learn from each other”*

– Frank Curtis, Greenwood community.



# The Barkly Backbone Team: Using Collective impact to make change in the Barkly

The Barkly Backbone team is based in Tennant Creek and supports collaborative, collective impact by bringing community and organisations together to work with governments on the 28 initiatives of the Barkly Regional Deal.

## What is Collective Impact?

Collective Impact is based on the idea that complex social issues are affected by many different systems (departments, organisations, individuals), which means that they cannot be properly solved by a single organisation.

With collective impact, all the key people and organisations come together to work collaboratively towards a common goal. In the case of the Barkly Regional Deal, the goal is for government and community to work together, build strong relationships and deliver initiatives that will bring long term positive change to the Barkly.



*Country Lines 2*

**Marcus Camphoo**

Alyawarr

Collective Impact is based on:

- **A common agenda** – All partners share a common goal and plan for achieving it.
- **Shared measurement** – Progress is carefully tracked and lessons are learned along the way.
- **Mutual reinforcement** – Each individual and organisation works in a way that supports each other.
- **Ongoing communication** – Building relationships and trust is an important focus for all partners.
- **Backbone coordination** – There is a Backbone coordination team that helps bring it all together.

## The Barkly Backbone Team

The Barkly Backbone supports the collective problem-solving efforts of everyone involved in the Deal. The Barkly Backbone does a lot of behind-the-scenes work to facilitate meetings, build relationships and link up community sectors.

Roles and priorities of the Backbone team shift depending on community needs. The recent focus for the Barkly Backbone has been to provide secretariat and administrative support to the Barkly Regional Deal Governance Table. This includes coordinating the bi-monthly Governance Table meetings in Tennant Creek and facilitating working group meetings to make sure Barkly community members have input into the Deal's initiatives. It also includes monitoring and evaluating the progress of the Deal, as well as identifying areas for improvement along the way.

The Backbone has also been spending significant time travelling to Barkly communities and homelands, to help draft community plans and to support the establishment of the Barkly Aboriginal Alliance.

For any questions about the Barkly Backbone's work, please contact [info@barklybackbone.com.au](mailto:info@barklybackbone.com.au) or drop into the office at 1/163 Paterson Street, Tennant Creek.



Barkly Backbone team members Ben Campion, Eleanor Dixon and Lucy McGarry

# Barkly Futures Forum

The Barkly Futures Forum, held on 24 and 25 February 2021, supported the Barkly region to come together and explore five key growth sectors - Agribusiness, Social Services, Creative Arts, Tourism, and the Energy, Mining and Resources sector.

The Forum was attended by over 200 guests, presenters and exhibitors over the two-day period. Emerging, small and medium local businesses directly engaged with business leaders and government representatives on game-changing economic opportunities in the Barkly and ways for local businesses to capitalise on these opportunities.

Andrew Liveris, Co-Chair of the Territory Economic Reconstruction Commission, gave a keynote address on how the Barkly could contribute to the Territory's broader post-COVID-19 economic recovery. 'Meet the Buyer' sessions were also held during the Forum, in which large-scale project owners and service buyers presented on their activities in the Barkly. The NT Indigenous Business Network held a Black Coffee Breakfast and facilitated a panel discussion exploring the inspirational stories of Aboriginal business owners from a range of industries. Other sessions held during the event covered diverse topics such as digital literacy and upskilling; pathways to work; and building resilience and innovation in small businesses.

Businesses were provided the opportunity to convene and learn from each other, with many attendees noting they made over 20 network connections from the event.

A charity dinner was held on the evening of 24 February, which raised a total of \$3400 for the Tennant Creek-based Australian Red Cross office.



*Government, Industry and Community members participating in the two day Barkly Futures Forum*

A number of key messages were covered by Forum presenters. Speakers noted that:

- The Barkly has enormous commercial development opportunity. The local workforce needs to be supported to upskill in order to meet the workforce needs of projects in the development pipeline.
- There are significant regional opportunities that go beyond traditional industries (such as mining and agriculture).
- There is a need to continually engage local Aboriginal people and support local Aboriginal business. It will be important to build capacity at the early stages of Aboriginal business development.

The Forum is another example of how the Deal is promoting economic opportunities and collaboration in the region that goes beyond the 28 government-funded Deal initiatives.

***"Continual engagement with Indigenous people and organisations is paramount. Collaboration and implementation are key to ongoing success."***

## SECTION 2

# Progress of the delivery of the 28 Barkly Regional Deal Initiatives

## Barkly Regional Deal Economic Initiatives

### INVESTMENT



#### Economic Development \$37.97 million

A key focus of the Barkly Regional Deal is to support economic growth and development in the Barkly. The Deal includes 12 initiatives and \$37.97 million in joint government funding aimed at creating local jobs; harnessing opportunities in the resources, agriculture and tourism sectors; accelerating regional economic development; and improving local infrastructure.

### Economic Initiatives – Case Studies

#### *The Barkly Business Hub*

##### Commitment

The Barkly Business Hub will be a multi-use one-stop-shop on Peko Road in Tennant Creek. It will help attract industry investment, promote business growth and boost local job creation by supporting workforce opportunities arising from the Barkly's pipeline of capital and other works.

##### Progress

A Business Plan for the Hub's design and initial operating model has been agreed in partnership with community members and local businesses. This Plan sets out the proposed service offering for the first year of operations for the Hub. Once completed, it is envisaged the Hub will deliver a range of services and programs, including:

- Workforce (Territory Workforce Programs, Aboriginal Workforce Grants, workforce development solutions and support);
- Small Business (business growth programs, Smarter Business Solutions, Aboriginal Business Development Program);
- Economic Development (major projects, industry and sector development, Regional Economic Development Fund);
- Territory Business Centre Services (business and professional licences and registration); and
- A dedicated energy and mining service offer.

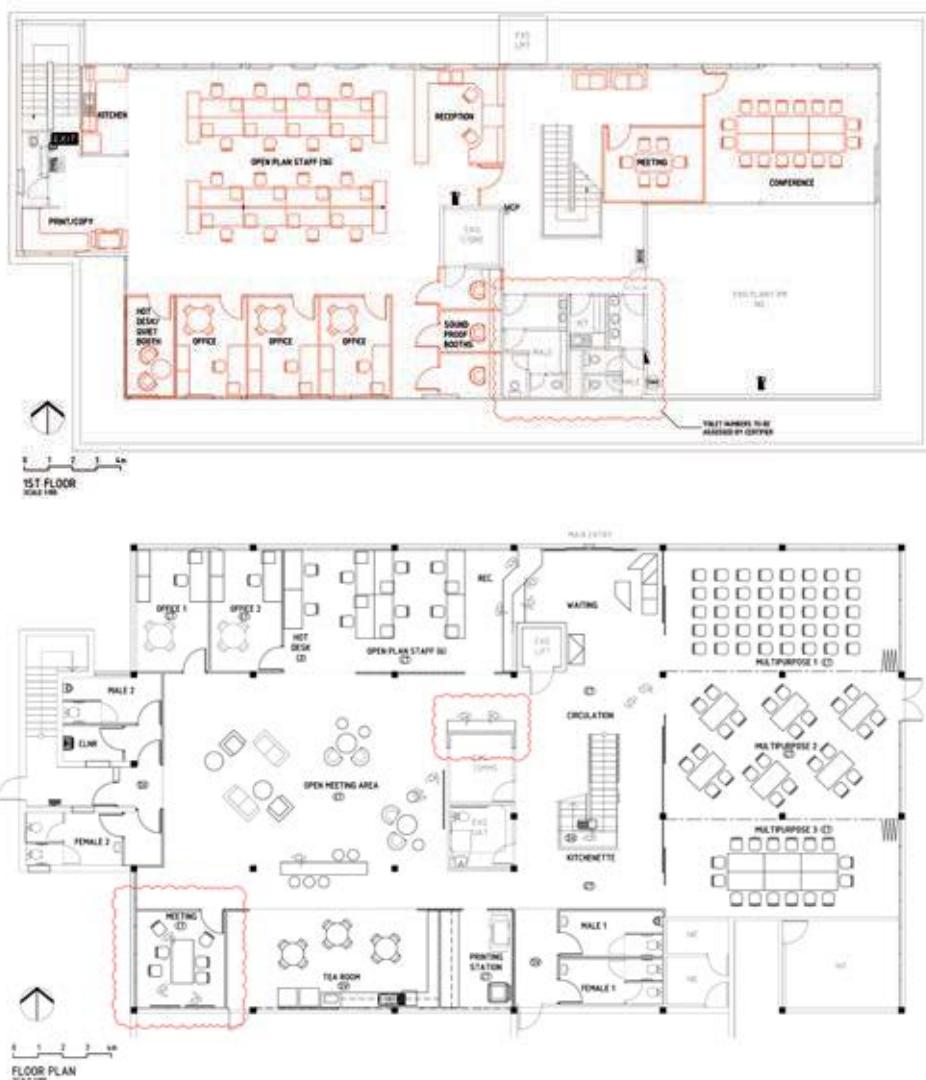


*Barkly Business Hub - the Hub will be located at the existing NT Government Centre in Tennant Creek*

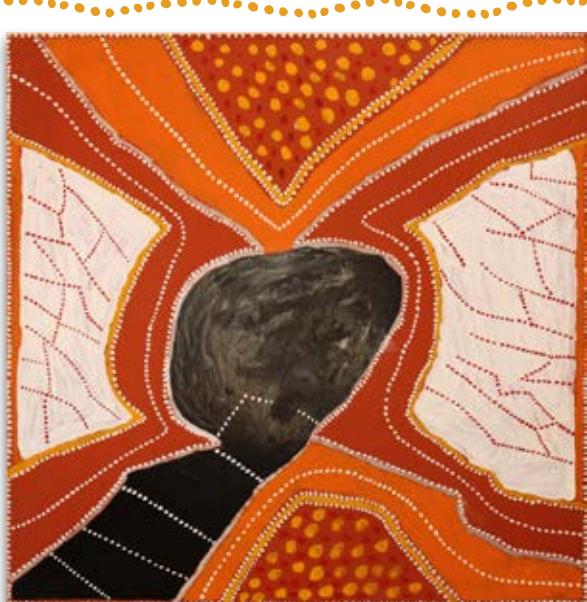
The design includes offices, work stations, pods, open meeting areas, a conference, meeting and boardroom, and other standard facilities (including phone, internet and videoconferencing) for business and community use. Hot desking will also be available in the Hub to support those who require short-term desk space. This will be particularly useful for business representatives based elsewhere who may not otherwise have access to desk space and the necessary facilities when visiting Tennant Creek.

### Next Steps

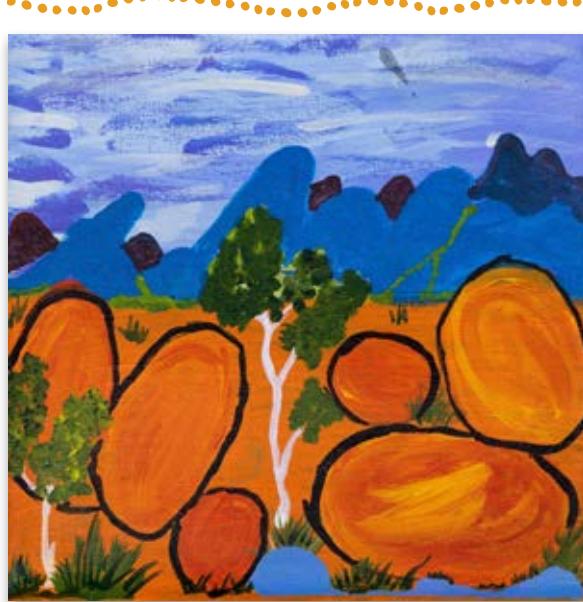
The construction tender has been awarded to a Territory business with a presence in Tennant Creek, Harvey Developments, with works anticipated for completion in the second quarter of 2022. The current occupants have vacated the building and construction works have commenced.



*Barkly Business Hub floor plan design concepts*



**Rockhole** Matthew Lad  
Alyawarr



**Karlu Karlu** Ruth Dawson  
“Karlu Karlu, commonly known as the Devil’s Marbles”

# Delivering a new Youth Justice Facility in Tennant Creek

## Commitment

The Barkly Regional Deal Youth Justice Facility will be a therapeutic alternative to detention, with “no locks or bars”, delivering programs to Barkly youth in contact with the justice system while allowing them to stay closer to their families and Country.

The Facility’s operational design aims to equip young people with the skills necessary to limit reoffending. It is being developed in line with the recommendations from the *Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory*.

## Progress

The delivery of the Youth Justice Facility is a strong example of community engagement and leadership under the Deal. The site was identified by community and its design and service model have both been community co-designed with a particular focus on elevating local Aboriginal voices.

## The site location

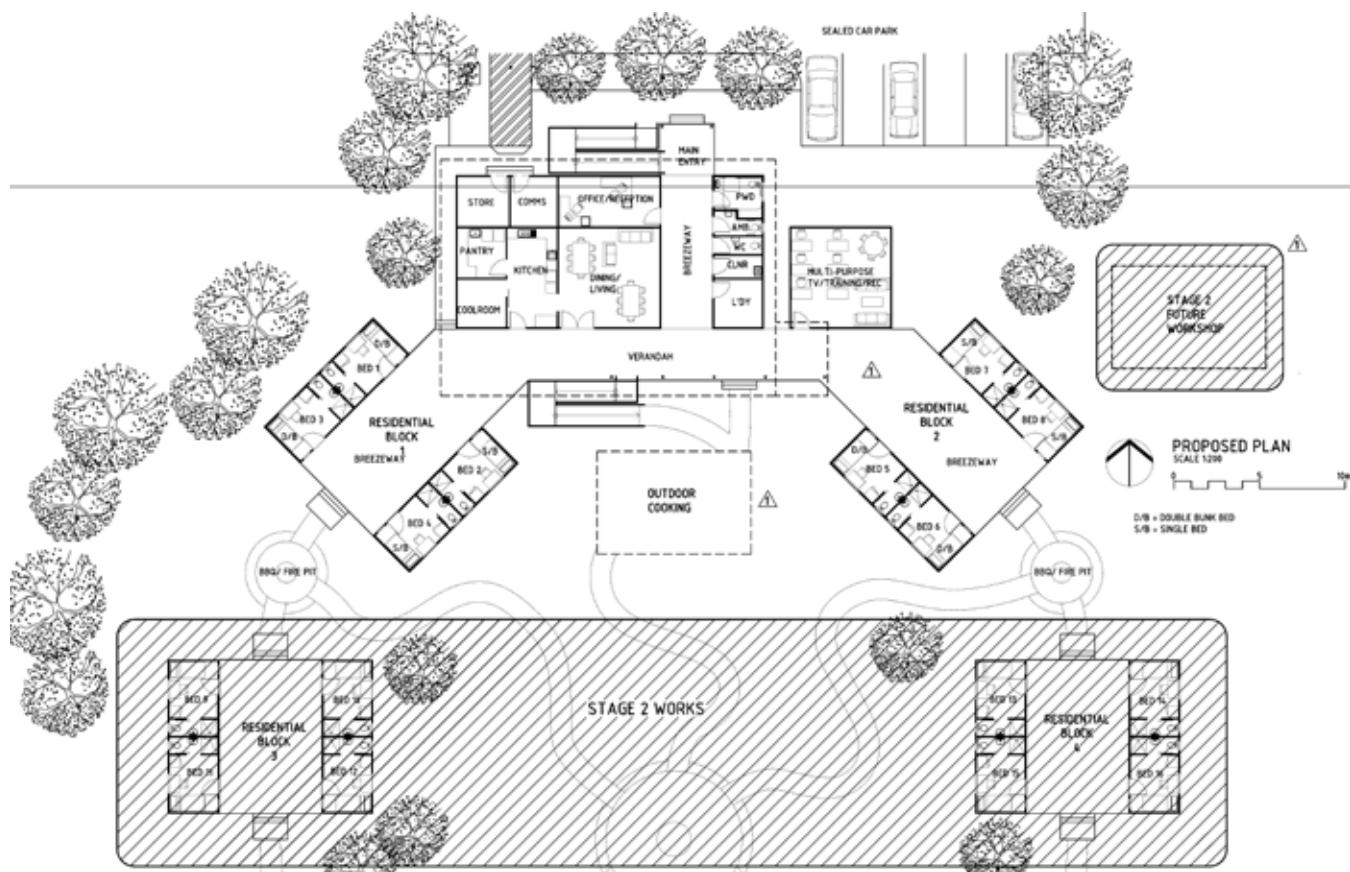
The Barkly Regional Deal Youth Justice Facility Working Group, comprising community members, local organisations and government representatives, chose the site of the Facility in 2020. When the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (the project’s lead agency) put forward a proposed site, Working Group members advised the site was not suitable and would not respond to the needs of youth in contact with the justice system. Through the Working Group, government, service providers and local leaders worked collaboratively to choose a new, community-preferred site. The resulting site reflects community aspirations and recognises the need for young people to be on Country during the rehabilitation process.

## Building Design and Service model

Following site selection, the Working Group shifted focus to building design. During early consultations, two local

Aboriginal organisations, Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation and Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation, made a joint submission to the Working Group. This submission advocated for changes to the Facility design and operational model making clear an Aboriginal focused and led approach was fundamental to the success of the Facility.

This submission has also helped Deal partners to work in partnership with Traditional Owners and community members (through Julalikari, Anyinginyi and Patta Aboriginal Corporation), to co-design the Facility and the operational elements. As a result, the Working Group was closed off and replaced by the Youth Justice Facility Indigenous Corporations Leadership Group, comprising these three local Aboriginal organisations. The Leadership Group endorsed the Facility’s concept design and had a primary focus on finalising the program scope and service model.



Design concept for the Tennant Creek Youth Justice Facility

## Next Steps

Construction of the Facility has commenced. The construction contract has been awarded to a Territory business, Northern Transportables, which is working with the Barkly construction industry to support local employment and training outcomes. Ongoing funding of \$2 million per year has also been secured for the operation of the Facility.

The Youth Justice Facility project shows a refreshed way of working in the Barkly, with community and government collaborating on project development and delivery.

As one Barkly Regional Deal Governance Table member has pointed out:

*"The most significant change I have seen [since I have been part of the Governance Table] was through the Youth Justice Facility Working Group. The Working Group was against some of the original proposals put forward by the Northern Territory Government.*

*The Working Group had [the site location] completely changed which is pretty impressive. The Working Group just said no, it would not be built there. There was consensus in the group about this.*

*I have not seen a decision changed to that degree here before, that sort of turn around by a government body.*

*It gives the people that were a part of it a sense ownership of the decisions that were made. So the main outcome was that the community has felt empowered and heard."*



*Bush Tomato Country* **Annette Peterson**  
Wutunugurra

"The landscape of the Bush Tomato Country at Neutral Junction"

## AT A GLANCE

# Progress against other Barkly Regional Deal Economic Initiatives

Initiative	Intended Outcome	Progress and next steps
<b>Regional Workforce Strategy</b>  <b>Funding:</b> <b>\$1m (NTG)</b>	To increase local employment in the Barkly through practical measures, with a focus on Aboriginal employment.	<p>The Barkly Jobs Profile was completed in October 2020, mapping the current distribution of jobs across the region, including where there are vacancies, to inform the development of the Regional Workforce Strategy.</p> <p>A Program Manager has been employed in Tennant Creek, through GTNT Group, to deliver the Juno Jobs Program. The Program is a flexible, training-to-employment model with multiple access points, allowing individuals to enter at the stage that suits their abilities and commence their development journey towards a qualification, a job and a career. A number of Vocational Education and Training (VET) certificates are available to complete in construction and community services.</p> <p>The Regional Workforce Strategy Working Group is progressing completion of the strategy in 2022 which will identify current training options and ensure they align with employment opportunities in Tennant Creek and across the region. Existing training and employment programs will also be strengthened to deliver better employment outcomes.</p>
<b>Youth Infrastructure</b>  <b>Funding:</b> <b>\$7.6m (CTH)</b>	Sporting and livability facilities will be constructed in communities across the Barkly.	<p>Youth focused infrastructure projects are being implemented across the Barkly region under the Building Better Regions Fund.</p> <p>Construction is complete on the Alpurrurlam Skate Park. The Tennant Creek Youth Recreation Centre is anticipated to be completed in the second quarter of 2022. There have been minor delays in obtaining land use approval for the Ali Curung Youth Recreation Centre, with the project anticipated to be completed in the third quarter of 2022. Land access discussions are ongoing for the Tennant Creek Bike Path project and final designs are under consideration.</p>
<b>New Housing Builds</b>  <b>Funding:</b> <b>Ongoing (NTG)</b>	Construct new government employee housing to return existing houses to the public housing stock.	<p>The first 10 of 22 new dwellings were completed in July 2021 and handed over in August 2021. Of the remaining 12 dwellings, all have received development approval with construction expected to commence in 2022.</p>
<b>Justice Infrastructure Investments</b>  <b>Funding:</b> <b>\$3.4m (NTG)</b>	Projects aiming to improve the Justice System include renovating the Tennant Creek watch-house to support family and legal staff visits, reintroducing the Elders at Court program, and installing videoconferencing facilities in Alpurrurulam and other locations.	<p>Key stakeholder and user consultations are underway for each sub-project under this initiative. The Watch House project scope is under review. Representatives from the NT Government's Department of the Attorney-General and Justice have met with the Governance Table about next steps on the Elders at Court project.</p>
<b>Upgrade Alpurrulam Airstrip</b>  <b>Funding:</b> <b>Ongoing (CTH/NTG)</b>	Upgrades to the Alpurrulam airstrip to support safe medical evacuations and passenger flights.	<p>This project has been completed ahead of schedule.</p> <p>The Alpurrulam airstrip upgrade was completed in late 2019 and has enhanced the safety and accessibility of the aerodrome to support year-round access for residents, safe aeromedical evacuations and the delivery of essential goods and services to the community.</p>
<b>Economic Growth Strategy</b>  <b>Funding:</b> <b>\$ 0.3m (CTH)</b>	Encourage private sector growth and diversify existing businesses across the Barkly.	<p>The Economic Growth and Support Working Group met with Coffey Consulting in early 2021 to discuss the development of the Economic Growth Strategy. Coffey Consulting delivered its final report to the Working Group on 2 April 2021.</p> <p>The Working Group has renewed its remit and membership to ensure the Economic Growth Strategy supports local business, Aboriginal employment, and improved job pathways and skills development for the Barkly.</p> <p>The Strategy is currently under development and it is anticipated it will be completed in mid-2022. The Strategy will outline pathways for maximising employment, strengthening business and realising the benefits of the development of key industries in the region.</p>

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Intended Outcome</b>	<b>Progress and next steps</b>
<b>Maximising Aboriginal Employment</b>  <b>Funding:</b> <b>Ongoing (CTH, NTG and BRC)</b>	Governments to set local Aboriginal employment targets and set local procurement targets for goods and services.	<p>Government partners and the Barkly Regional Deal Governance Table are leveraging work undertaken through the Regional Workforce Strategy to support implementation of this initiative.</p> <p>Through the Regional Workforce Strategy, Deal partners will set Aboriginal employment targets across all occupational levels, including leadership and management positions within the local workforce, and procurement targets for goods and services from Aboriginal owned and operated businesses across the supply-chain.</p>
<b>Barkly Mining and Energy Services Offer</b>  <b>Funding:</b> <b>Ongoing (NTG)</b>  <i>(This project works alongside the Barkly Business Hub)</i>	Develop a service offer to support mining and energy development opportunities in the Barkly.	<p>The Mining and Energy Service Offer will operate from the Barkly Business Hub and provide tailored services for Barkly businesses seeking to capitalise on opportunities in the mining and energy space.</p> <p>A survey of businesses has been conducted and a preliminary report on mining activities in the Barkly is being developed. This report will identify projects already underway in the Barkly and analyse the key industry needs for local businesses to take advantage of.</p> <p>Government representatives are meeting with proponents to progress planning following the successful Barkly Futures Forum.</p>
<b>Weather Radar</b>  <b>Funding: \$17.9m (CTH/NTG)</b>	A new weather radar to support agribusiness and resource exploration decision-making; and provide accurate and up to date weather information for communities and residents in the Barkly.	<p>A funding agreement between the Northern Territory Government and Australian Bureau of Meteorology was signed in March 2021. A project plan has been completed and the Radar equipment and tower have been ordered.</p> <p>The Bureau has commenced briefings with Patta Aboriginal Corporation, the Central Land Council and other local stakeholders to consider site selection and local business and employment opportunities.</p> <p>It is anticipated works will commence in 2022 once a preferred site is selected.</p>
<b>Improvements to the Delivery of the Community Development Program</b>  <b>Funding:</b> <b>Ongoing (CTH)</b>	Support aligning work programs through CDP with community priorities.	<p>RISE Ngurratjuta, the CDP provider, has placed 228 local people into employment across the region (between May 2020 to Aug 2021), changing the lives of local and remote indigenous people throughout the Barkly.</p> <p>On 12 May 2021, all CDP job seekers saw an alteration to their mutual obligations. Job seekers will be able to volunteer to participate in activities, but a range of requirements will continue to be compulsory, such as attending appointments with service providers or looking for work.</p> <p>On 22 October 2021, the Barkly was announced as one of five trial sites across the country where communities will work with Government to co-design the new Remote Engagement Program for jobseekers.</p>



*Work underway on the construction of the Tennant Creek Youth Recreation Facility.*

# Barkly Regional Deal Social Initiatives

## INVESTMENT



### Social Development \$31.75 million

The Barkly Regional Deal includes \$31.75 million in funding across 10 different initiatives to improve social and well-being outcomes in the Barkly. A key focus of these initiatives is to reduce housing overcrowding and improve the way government funded services are delivered in the region.

Through the Barkly Regional Deal, the **Australian and Northern Territory Governments** are investing **\$27.35 million** in new housing initiatives in the Barkly.



## Social Initiatives – Case Studies

### *Improving Housing Outcomes for the Barkly*

Housing overcrowding and lack of supply was identified as the single biggest issue for the Barkly during the announcement of the Barkly Regional Deal in July 2018. As a result, governments worked in partnership with community to develop six Deal projects aimed at increasing the number of accommodation options and housing services available in the region. While it is acknowledged these initiatives alone cannot resolve the critical housing shortages and flow on issues faced by the region, the Deal is demonstrating how the right investment and projects can support communities, governments and the NGO sector work together to improve housing and accommodation outcomes.

#### **Barkly Regional Deal Housing Initiatives**

The Deal's housing initiatives focus on three areas of need in the Barkly – the provision of short, medium and long term accommodation options. An outline of each initiative is provided below (with further detail on progress provided in the relevant project update sections of this Report):

- ▷ Delivery of Crisis Youth Support Safe Places and Accommodation – increasing the level and type of youth support and services available in the region.
- ▷ Construction of the Tennant Creek Visitor Park – providing culturally appropriate, seasonal accommodation for people visiting from outlying communities and homelands.
- ▷ Improving access to the Aboriginal Hostels Limited (AHL) facility in Tennant Creek – working with AHL to trial a reduction in the nightly tariff for beds for local residents.

- ▷ Construction of a Student Boarding Facility – delivering a 40 Bed accommodation facility for students in Tennant Creek and outlying communities.
- ▷ Delivery of a Social and Affordable Housing Partnership – a public-private partnership with community housing provider Venture Housing to construct housing in Tennant Creek.
- ▷ Construction of new Government Employee Housing – enabling existing housing to be transitioned to public housing, assisting to alleviate pressure with regard to limited social housing in Tennant Creek.

#### **Other housing projects underway in the Barkly**

Beyond the housing initiatives being implemented under the Barkly Regional Deal, there are also a number of other non-Deal related housing and accommodation projects progressing across the Barkly. These include:



*10 unit leased Government Employee Housing Complex Stuart Street completed under the Deal's New Housing Builds Initiative*

- Delivery of 10 three-bedroom and four-bedroom dwellings in Community Living Areas. The first five homes were handed over in March 2021, with a further four completed in August 2021 and the final dwelling was handed over in October 2021. Two dwellings were constructed in each of Village Camp, Marla Marla, Ngalpa Ngalpa (Mulga Camp) and Kargaru; and one each at Tinkarli and Munji-Marla (Blueberry Hill).
- A further three public housing dwellings were handed over in March 2021. Two were developed, one each at Kargaru and Tinkarli, while the third was built to replace a dwelling in Tennant Creek that was beyond economic recovery.
- Twelve social head leased dwellings in Tennant Creek are being developed, to support Territorians to transition into appropriate accommodation. Contracts have been awarded for the construction and lease of the dwellings, with construction expected to be complete by mid-2023.
- The completion of the \$5 million Barkly Regional Alcohol and Drug Abuse Advisory Group (BRADAAG) Facility will release 17 industry housing dwellings for reallocation or conversion to public housing. The BRADAAG Facility is proposed to be located next to the Tennant Creek Visitor Park.

## ***Improving how governments invest in and deliver social services in the Barkly***

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### **Commitment**

One of the headline initiatives of the Deal is Government Investment and Service System Reform (GISSR). This is in response to a consistent and repeated issue raised by the Barkly community for the need to strengthen the collaboration, coordination and accountability of government funded and delivered services in the region.

For users, the current service system in the Barkly region is often considered fragmented and lacking transparency, resulting in service gaps and duplication. In some cases this has resulted in the delivery of ineffective services. The aim of the GISSR work is to:

- assess and review the effectiveness, efficiency and appropriateness of existing services;
- involve the local community in the planning, design and monitoring of current and future investment;
- strengthen the coordination and integration of services;
- improve the coordination of government funding; and
- adopt an outcome-based approach to service planning, delivery and performance reporting to improve the accountability of government funding.

This is a significant piece of work and has the potential to tangibly improve the services that are delivered to people in the Barkly region. It is consistent with reforms recommended by the Royal Commission in to the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory, and the Productivity Commission's Report on *Expenditure on Children in the Northern Territory*.

### **Progress**

Data collection has begun and local working groups will be established for different service sectors, to consider data and discuss how services work, and for engagement with community. The Connected Beginnings Wangkiji Group has been established as the working group for early childhood and a separate youth sector working group will follow shortly.

The Barkly Governance Table has established a Systems Change Design Team to determine the scope of the work, next service sectors for consideration, and prepare a consultation model and community engagement process.

### **Next steps**

The main next steps are the establishment of the working groups and the compilation of the data into a useable format for the working groups, community and government to consider. The information will be used to have discussions about where there are gaps, duplications and misalignment of services, and how these services can be changed to improve coordination and integration for the benefit of the Barkly.



**New non-Deal related Public Housing under construction in Kargaru Community Living Area**

## AT A GLANCE

# Progress against other Barkly Regional Deal Social Initiatives

Initiative	Intended Outcome	Progress and next steps
<b>Tennant Creek Visitor Park</b>  <b>Funding:</b> <b>\$9.5 million (CTH/NTG/BRC)</b>	A Visitor Park will be built for transitional and seasonal visitors from outlying remote communities.	The Visitor Park Working Group has selected the site and endorsed the design principles for the project, enabling development of a design brief. Development applications have been lodged for site rezoning and subdivision. Next steps include detailed headworks planning, and the release of the Visitor Park design and construction tender. It is anticipated the design and construction contract will be awarded in April 2022.
<b>Crisis Youth Support – Safe Places Accommodation</b>  <b>Funding:</b> <b>\$3m (NTG)</b>	This initiative is ensuring that safe places and accommodation options are available for youth in the Barkly.	The Julalikari Training Centre has been confirmed as the accommodation site, with Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) negotiations underway. The Crisis Youth Support Working Group meets monthly to co-design the youth support service model for this initiative. The NT Government has developed an options paper for accommodation services for the consideration of the Working Group. A survey has also been conducted with the community to gain their input on potential service details.
<b>Trauma Informed Care</b>  <b>Funding:</b> <b>\$3m (NTG)</b>	A multidisciplinary trauma response for children and young people in the Barkly region will help address health, developmental, cognitive and mental health assessments in a safe and culturally appropriate environment.	We-Al-li, an Aboriginal organisation that provides culturally-informed training, ran four community workshops in September 2021 with local service providers, men, women and youth to identify specific community needs and co-design the delivery of the trauma informed care model under the Deal. We-Al-li has been engaged to deliver a two year service delivery program of training workshops to support service providers across the Barkly to provide culturally responsive trauma-informed approaches, which is expected to commence in early 2022.
<b>Multi-Purpose Accommodation Facility</b>  <b>Funding:</b> <b>\$0.25m (CTH)</b>	Aboriginal Hostels Limited to deliver an affordability trial for local and community members accessing its accommodation.	The project was completed in 2019. The trial demonstrated the benefits of underwriting the nightly tariff for AHL housing to reduce the number of local residents and medical patients sleeping rough and returning to homelessness. The trial is informing future program delivery.
<b>Student Boarding Facility</b>  <b>Funding:</b> <b>\$12.7m (CTH/NTG)</b>	The development of the new 40-bed Student Boarding Facility in Tennant Creek will help bolster school enrolment and attendance rates, and support young people who may otherwise have been left unsupervised at night.	Two phases of community consultation on the Facility have taken place. There has been strong community support for the Facility. A design brief, initial cost estimate and services assessment have been completed for the proposed site at Tennant Creek High School. The initial design of the Facility is progressing, taking into account community priorities and aspirations raised through consultations. Subject to endorsement of detailed design through a third round of community consultations, procurement is anticipated to commence in second quarter of 2022.
<b>Social and Affordable Housing Private-Public Partnership</b>  <b>Funding:</b> <b>\$1.9m (CTH/NTG)</b>	Affordable houses for Aboriginal families with low to moderate incomes will be constructed under a Public Private Partnership. This project represents a collaborative model with stakeholders across the private and public sphere working together to leverage housing outcomes for the Barkly community.	In July 2021, Venture Housing delivered an updated project proposal to the Barkly Regional Deal Governance Table. The proposal includes the construction of affordable rental properties and dwellings for shared equity Aboriginal home ownership. The Governance Table has provided its in-principle support to the proposal, on the condition any funding agreement with Venture Housing is acceptable to all parties in terms of benefit to local Aboriginal people. The government partners are also supportive of the updated project proposal. Negotiation of a funding agreement is anticipated in the first quarter of 2022.

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Intended Outcome</b>	<b>Progress and next steps</b>
<b>Community Sports</b> <b>Funding:</b> <b>\$0.8m (CTH)</b>	Improve social outcomes in the Barkly region through provision of access to sporting activities.	<p>Sport Australia continues to partner with Barkly Regional Council to deliver this initiative. The program is progressing against the Activity Plan endorsed by the Governance Table with high levels of community engagement. The sports co-ordinators have supported the delivery of new sports programs and events in the region in partnership with NT peak sporting organisations.</p> <p>Highlights for the Community Sports Program throughout the year include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Come and Try” sports days for Barkly children with representatives from peak sporting bodies</li> <li>• Clinics delivered by Tennis NT to communities in Ali Curung and Ampilatwatja</li> <li>• Coach and referee accreditations delivered in NRL, softball, boxing and Royal Life Saving</li> <li>• Establishment of regular social competition for softball and skills sessions for soccer</li> <li>• Establishment of the Barkly Sports Hub staffed by local volunteers to support sport delivery in the region</li> </ul>
<b>Aged Care Services in the Barkly Region</b> <b>Funding:</b> <b>Ongoing (CTH/NTG/BRC)</b>	Deliver culturally safe aged care home care services in the Barkly Region under the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program.	<p>The 2019-20 the Barkly Regional Council was successful in its application for ongoing funding through the expansion of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program.</p> <p>The Program funds organisations to provide flexible, culturally safe aged care services to older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people close to their home and community. In 2021-22 the Council will receive \$1.2 million under the Program to deliver aged care services across the Barkly Region.</p> <p>The Barkly Regional Council has also been successful in receiving grant funding of \$17,000 for equipment purchases in Barkly Aged Care Centres through a recent one-off grant round for services under the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program.</p> <p>In 2021-22 the Australian Regional &amp; Remote Community Services (ARRCS) will also receive \$4.6 million to deliver residential and home care services to the region in Tennant Creek.</p>
<b>Childcare Places</b> <b>Funding:</b> <b>Ongoing (CTH/NTG/BRC)</b>	Government partners work with the Barkly community and service providers to increase early learning and child care participation in the Barkly region.	<p>The Barkly Regional Deal and Connected Beginnings contracted Anglicare NT to engage and consult with families and other relevant stakeholders about childcare places in Tennant Creek. A report was published in October 2020 outlining the findings of this research.</p> <p>Building on the findings of the report, Connected Beginnings is working with PWC’s Indigenous Consulting to develop a regional childcare service model in Tennant Creek that addresses the identified gaps in the service system.</p> <p>This project is engaging community and service providers to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• current and future demand for childcare service types across the region;</li> <li>• the Barkly region childcare service model ; and</li> <li>• financial models for future service delivery.</li> </ul> <p>Based on the above, an implementation plan will be developed for a regional service model that will focus on new and/or revised services and options to address childcare needs.</p>

# Barkly Regional Deal Culture and Place Making Initiatives

## INVESTMENT



### Culture and Place-making \$8.65 million

Celebrating and strengthening the Barkly region's cultural diversity, communities and distinctive heritage are important features of the Barkly Regional Deal. The Deal includes six initiatives totaling \$8.65 million in funding designed to enhance community governance, support local Aboriginal leadership, help revitalise the region's towns and homelands, and strengthen community engagement and participation.

## Culture and Place Making Initiatives – Case Studies

### *The roll out of the Barkly Local Community Projects Fund*

#### Commitment

The Local Community Projects Fund is a targeted, \$6 million grant program supporting local projects in communities and Aboriginal homelands outside of Tennant Creek.

The Fund is an important expression of one of the Deal's key objectives – for governments to create space for communities and Aboriginal homelands to identify their own priorities and shape the projects and initiatives that benefit their communities.

#### Progress

The \$6 million grant Fund opened on 27 October 2020. Grant Guidelines and Application Forms are available on the Deal website.

Seven projects and approximately \$1.3 million in funding has been approved in line with community aspirations and Local Authorities' identified priorities. These projects include:

- Installation of a basketball court in Al purrurulam;
- Upgrades to the Ampilatwatja Sports and Recreation Centre (including enclosing the existing structure);
- The upgrade and refurbishment of the Arts Centre in Wutunugurra;
- New change rooms, shower and toilet facilities for the Elliott football field;
- Improving street lighting in Canteen Creek;
- Installation of solar array and household battery systems to service Marlinja outstation; and
- Construction of an ablution block in Ampilatwatja.



New basketball court in Alpurrurulam delivered through the Barkly Local Community Projects Fund



New change rooms, shower and toilet facilities for the Elliott football field delivered through the Barkly Local Community Projects Fund

## Working with communities and homelands to delivery Community Plans

In parallel to the rollout of the Local Community Projects Fund, the Barkly Regional Deal is also supporting communities and homelands in the Barkly to develop Community Plans. The purpose of these plans is to not only help identify priority projects for funding under the Local Community Projects Fund; but also to empower communities to define and communicate their strengths, needs, and goals for the future.

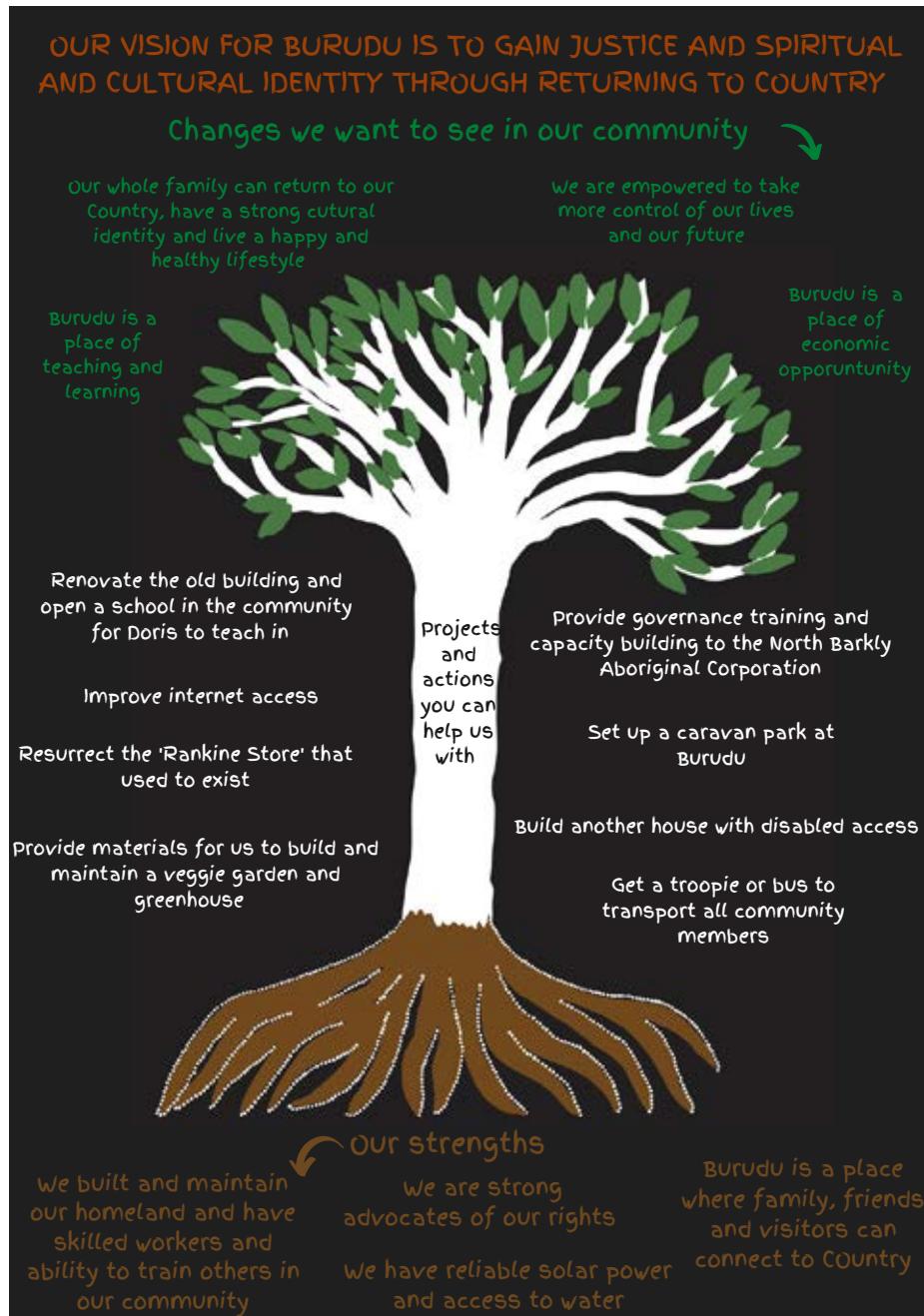
A planning team made up of Barkly Backbone staff has been supporting Barkly communities to develop their Community Plans through a series of workshops. The workshops are structured as a theory of change conversation, speaking with community members about:

- their perception of the landscape of the community, including key contacts, community strengths, perceived stakeholders and services operating in the community, gaps and long-term visions for the community; and
- what they feel is needed to address the existing gaps and to achieve key priorities (including key projects).

Community Plans are important advocacy tools for remote communities and homelands to direct any future investments and partnerships. They can act as the first point of call for anyone wanting to work in the community, run programs, build or do anything involving community.

Community Plans are living documents and will be reviewed every year. The review will include a monitoring and evaluation component to track how the plans are being used and identify any change that has taken place in remote communities as a result of the Barkly Regional Deal and other projects.

For more information on the development of Community Plans, or advice and assistance in developing an application for the Local Community Projects Fund, please contact the Barkly Regional Deal Backbone team at [info@barklybackbone.com.au](mailto:info@barklybackbone.com.au) or 8962 0087.



*The Community planning process - identifying priorities, strengths and needs for the Burudu community*

## AT A GLANCE

# Progress against other Culture and Place Making Initiatives

Initiative	Intended Outcome	Progress and next steps
<b>Local Community Governance</b> <b>Funding:</b> <b>\$1 million</b> <b>(CTH/NTG/BRC)</b>	Support the operations of a community governance group to implement the Barkly Regional Deal.	<p>Funding is being provided to support the operations of the Barkly Backbone team and Governance Table.</p> <p>In July 2021 the Governance Table agreed to the establishment of an eleven-member Barkly Aboriginal Alliance to represent communities outside of Tennant Creek, and allocating the Alliance four seats on the Table.</p> <p>An Alliance member from Marlinja community has joined the Barkly Backbone team as Governance (Alliance) Coordinator and has relocated to Tennant Creek. A locally based Community Engagement Officer has also joined the team part time to support community planning and engagement with Barkly communities.</p>
<b>Community Mediation</b> <b>Funding:</b> <b>\$1.65m</b> <b>(CTH/NTG/BRC)</b>	Funding will make available mediation support for Aboriginal people across the region.	<p>In response to long-standing community conflicts in the Barkly, Deal partners are developing a process for ongoing mediation support across the region.</p> <p>A cultural and training model will be co-designed with community members. This work builds upon a community information session that took place in December 2019 and is informed by existing best-practice mediation models.</p>
<b>Arts Centre in Elliott – feasibility study</b> <b>Funding:</b> <b>Ongoing (NTG)</b>	Deliver a feasibility study about the viability of an Aboriginal Art Centre in Elliot.	The feasibility study has been completed. A private company will support the development of an Art Centre as part of a new Roadhouse construction in Elliot, with construction expected to be completed at the end of 2022.
<b>Update Council Website About Aboriginal History</b> <b>Funding:</b> <b>Ongoing (BRC)</b>	Update the Council website with the Barkly region's Aboriginal and mining history.	Website content is under consideration by stakeholders. The Council is working with Patta Aboriginal Corporation on the content; and has also engaged the Papulu Apparr-kari Language Centre Aboriginal Corporation for language support of written content.
<b>Marketing and Promotion</b> <b>Funding:</b> <b>Ongoing (BRC)</b>	The highlights of the Barkly region will be promoted, with a focus on using digital channels.	The Barkly Regional Council has employed a Media and Communications manager. A Barkly Regional Deal communications strategy is being delivered.

# A Framework is in place to Monitor and Measure Performance and progress made under the Regional Deal

The Barkly Backbone team has worked with community members to form a local Measuring Change Working Group whose task is to co-design and implement an evaluation framework for the Barkly Regional Deal. The Measuring Change Working Group has been operating since February 2021 and has nine members, the majority of whom are local Aboriginal people from a range of sectors.

The focus is on co-designing a framework, principles and data collection methods which reflect a local community lens and build the capacity of local people to engage in evaluation of the Deal. There are two primary audiences for the evaluation; Barkly families and communities, and Government and other stakeholders invested in the Barkly Regional Deal. The purpose of the Measuring Change Working Group and the evaluation framework is to:

1. Improve – The Measuring Change Working Group will provide regular feedback loops to the Governance Table to enable learning and improvements.
2. Provide evidence – This includes demonstrating outputs and short-term outcomes to the community, government funders and other stakeholders. Outcomes at the population level may take more than five to nine years to be achieved. We can use the evaluation to keep the momentum by seeing what is working along the way.
3. Build knowledge – Learnings from the Deal can be used inform other place-based initiatives and to understand the challenges and successes of using this approach in Aboriginal communities.

In order to capture early evidence of change and to help us understand how we are going so far, the Measuring Change Working Group is collecting ‘Most Significant Change’ stories from the Governance Table and other community members.

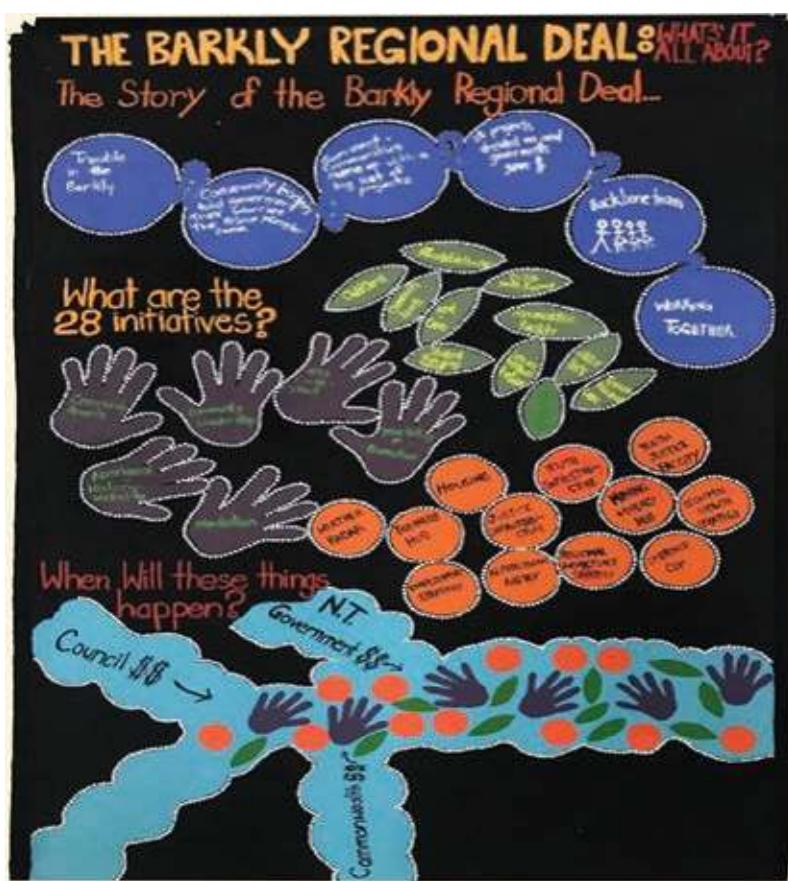
The Working Group is asking, ‘What is the most significant change you have seen in the community as a result of the work of the Barkly Regional Deal, and why is this change so important?

Here is one of the stories collected so far from a Governance Table member:

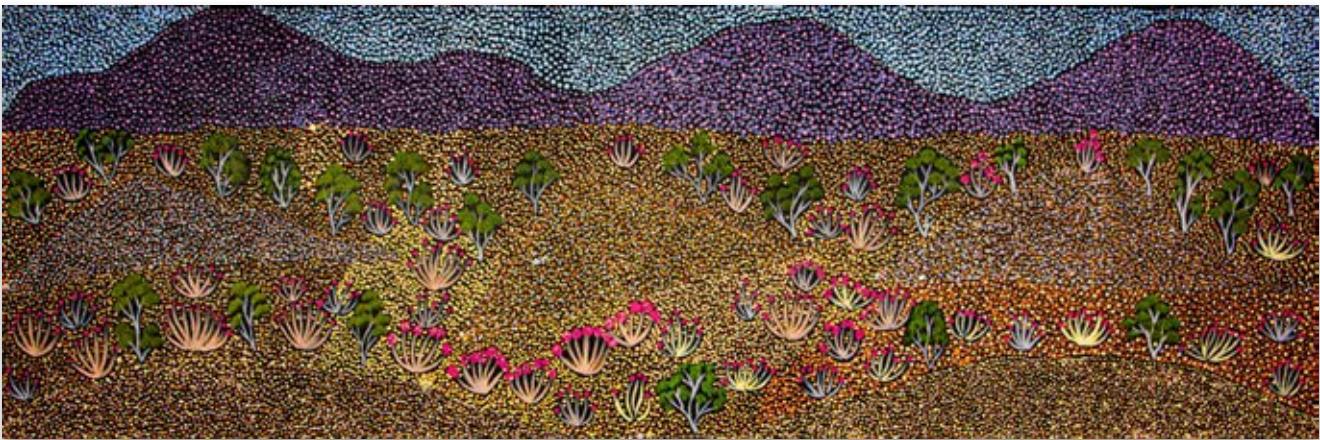
The most significant change [since I have been part of the Governance Table] is the attempt at setting up meaningful systems where three tiers of government sit with community at the one table.

*[At the Governance Table] we have community sector representatives alongside tiers of government, everybody is sharing information, everyone is part of the conversation. What is happening is a respectful and inclusive process.*

*Historically community consultation hasn't always been very accessible. For example, responding to government by written submissions is an almost academic process. Community often communicates by sitting down and talking. There is a very big difference [at the Governance Table] in having an ongoing opportunity to sit with government and be heard, this is an inclusive process. It's not just about being heard, it's about government listening and responding to what community is saying. In many aspects there is evidence that government is listening and taking community views into account. This is a very positive outcome.*



*The story of the Barkly Regional Deal – by Freda Shannon, Tennant Creek, 2021*



*After Bushfires* **Susie Peterson**  
Wutunugurra “A landscape after the bushfires”

## Acknowledgements & Artist Credits

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### Cover Artwork: Landscape of Epenarra by Susie Peterson, Wutunugurra.

The painting is a depiction of the unique landscape surrounding the community of Wetengerr or also named Epenarra. It is described by the Indigenous people as Hill Country. It is partly protected as the Davenport Ranges National Park, including the sites of Whistleduck Creek and Policeman Waterhole. It is referred to as semi-tropical with a unique variety of birds, insects and flora. In Alyawarr, it is called lytwelepenety.

### Page 8: Parda Parda – Sunrise, by Mary James, Kulumindini (Elliot), 2021.

This image embodies traditional ritual knowledge of the Warlpiri community. It was created with the consent of the custodians of the community. Dealing with any part of the image for any purpose that has not been authorised by the custodians is a serious breach of the customary laws of the Warlpiri community.

### Page 8: Pulka (Old Man), by Joseph Williams, Warumungu, 2021.

This image embodies traditional ritual knowledge of the Warumungu community. It was created with the consent of the custodians of the community. Dealing with any part of the image for any purpose that has not been authorised by the custodians is a serious breach of the customary laws of the Warumungu community.

### Page 10: Country Lines 2, by Marcus Camphoo, Alyawarr, 2018.

This image embodies traditional ritual knowledge of the Alyawarr community. It was created with the consent of the custodians of the community. Dealing with any part of the image for any purpose that has not been authorised by the custodians is a serious breach of the customary laws of the Alyawarr community.

### Page 15: Rockhole, by Matthew Lad, Alyawarr, 2018.

This image embodies traditional ritual knowledge of the Alyawarr community. It was created with the consent of the custodians of the community. Dealing with any part of the image for any purpose that has not been authorised by the custodians is a serious breach of the customary laws of the Alyawarr community.

### Page 15: Karlu Karlu, by Ruth Dawson, Waramungu, 2021.

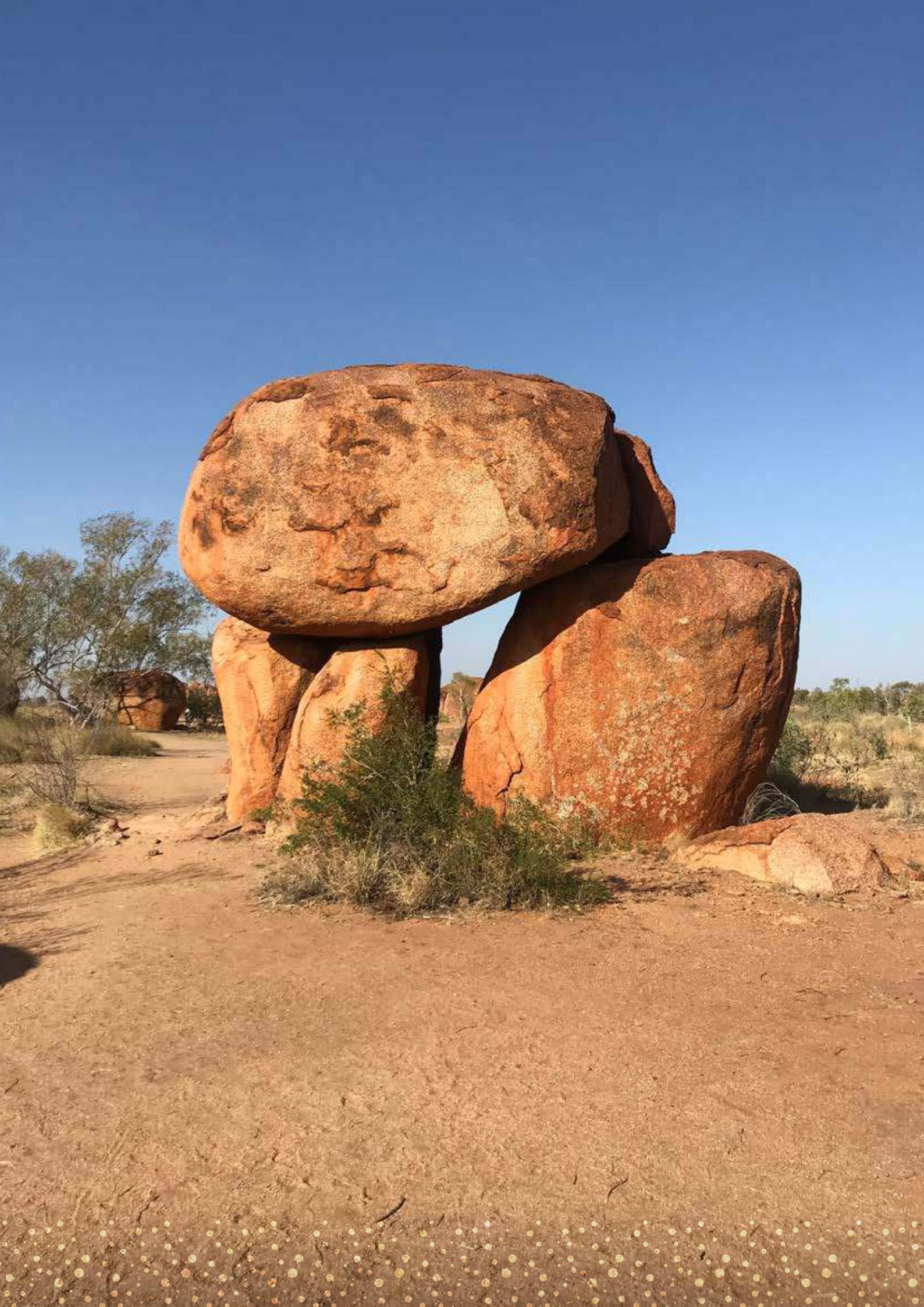
This image embodies traditional ritual knowledge of the Warumungu community. It was created with the consent of the custodians of the community. Dealing with any part of the image for any purpose that has not been authorised by the custodians is a serious breach of the customary laws of the Warumungu community.

### Page 17: Bush Tomato Country, by Annette Peterson, Wutunugurra, 2021.

This image embodies traditional ritual knowledge of the Wutunugurra community. It was created with the consent of the custodians of the community. Dealing with any part of the image for any purpose that has not been authorised by the custodians is a serious breach of the customary laws of the Wutunugurra community.

### Page 30: After Bushfires, by Susie Peterson, Wutunugurra, 2021.

This image embodies traditional ritual knowledge of the Wutunugurra community. It was created with the consent of the custodians of the community. Dealing with any part of the image for any purpose that has not been authorised by the custodians is a serious breach of the customary laws of the Wutunugurra community.





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