

Barkly Regional Deal

Governance Table Communique – 9 June 2022

- The fourth meeting of the Barkly Governance Table (the Table) was held on Thursday 9 June 2022 in Elliott. This was the first time a Table meeting has been held outside Tennant Creek and is in accordance with the Table's commitment to hold every second meeting outside the regional centre. This meeting followed thirteen previous meetings of the Interim Governance Table.
- The morning session was open to the public and held at the Elliott Basketball Court. Traditional Owner Cr Heather Wilson welcomed everyone, and community members talked about Elliott's priorities and challenges. Community members working with the local CDP provider made a delicious damper for morning tea.
- The Table considered their regular business in the afternoon at the Elliott Council Office. Representatives attended from Patta Aboriginal Corporation, the Aboriginal Alliance, Aboriginal Corporations Leadership Group, Barkly Regional Council, and Northern Territory and Commonwealth government agencies Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications and the National Indigenous Australians Agency, joined by the Backbone Executive Officer and independent Table Chair Sean Gordon.

Working Group Updates

- The **Visitor Park Working Group** met on 12 May and reviewed the Functional Design Brief based on the endorsed design principles, following the approval for the subdivision and rezoning of the preferred site. The project will move to the design and construct phase with further consultations on the service delivery at the 25% design stage.
- The **Regional Workforce Strategy Working Group** held workshops on 15 March and 10 May as they develop the Barkly Regional Workforce Strategy. The two workshops completed on the foundation cohort and work readiness explored strategies on how to develop and upskill individuals for employment.
- The **Economic Growth and Support Working Group** held their first three Regional Workshops to develop the Economic Growth Strategy for the Barkly on 17 March, 21 April and 19 May. Joined by members of the Regional Workforce Strategy Working Group, the workshops focused on the vision, regional targets and investment pipeline for the Barkly's economic growth.
- The **Crisis Youth Support Working Group** met on 11 May and completed a draft proposal for a Supported Accommodation, Assertive Outreach and Engagement Service for the Governance Table's review. The proposal highlights a coordinated outreach and case-management program to identify safe places in the community for young people as a first priority.

Key Discussions

- The Commonwealth National Indigenous Australians Agency informed the Table that the local co-design group established for the Remote Engagement Program trial (CDP reform) has conducted two workshops and shares members from the Regional Workforce Strategy Working Group.
- The Table recognised the Economic Growth and Support Working Group, and the Regional Workforce Strategy Working Group have alignment and could be brought together into a single group following completion of their current workplans to maximise outcomes for both initiatives. This is to be explored further as part of the Strategic Plan.
- The Backbone updated the Table on recent community planning trips joined by We Al-li facilitator JudyKaye Knox. The combined approach has shown good community participation and interest from schools in the community planning and trauma informed care initiative.
- The Table agreed on the need to streamline the ongoing community planning process. This includes the importance of reviewing available data prior to visiting communities, feeding into existing place-based structures, and for the Backbone to coordinate with Government partners and other stakeholders to ensure the plans allow agencies to respond effectively to community priorities.
- The Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure presented an early version of the data dashboard created for the Government Investment and Service System Reform initiative. The data collected from Commonwealth and NT Government agencies will show funding across a range of service program areas in the Barkly to support community conversations and improve outcomes.
- The Table reviewed three Local Community Projects Fund Grant applications presented for a decision.

Agreed Decisions

- The Table made the following decisions:
 - Agreed that the Implementation Plan for the 28 initiatives should be updated annually and informed by the Traffic Light Report, for both internal and external reporting on the progress of each initiative
 - Agreed that only items of exception from the Traffic Light Report will be raised at future Table meetings to allow more time for strategic discussions
 - Agreed that the Regional Workforce Strategy Working Group and the Economic Growth and Support Working Group should be combined following completion of their current workplans
 - Agreed that Table members will attend a half-day trauma informed care workshop with We-Al-li facilitator JudyKaye Knox
 - Agreed to hold a workshop to reflect on what has been achieved over the last three years of the Deal and determine objectives for the next three years, including the scope of each of the Deal partners and the Backbone Team to inform the development of the Strategic Plan for the Barkly Regional Deal
 - Agreed to hold Table meetings on Thursdays moving forward

- Approved the following Community Grants applications:
 - Pukalki Water Infrastructure Upgrade (\$98 942)
 - Nguyarrimini Tractor and Container Workshop (\$89 884.50)
 - Deadly Hair Dude Hairdressing Training Program Elliott (\$55 000) (conditionally approved, subject to NIAA reviewing if this project is able to be funded through another existing program)

Next Meeting: TBC