



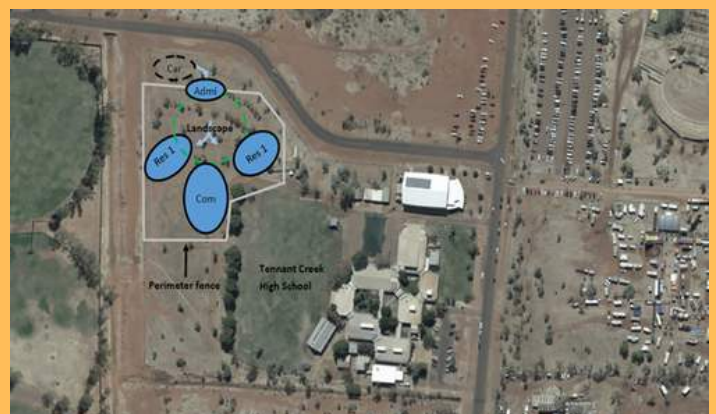
ARCHITECTS WELCOMED TO COUNTRY ON THE STUDENT BOARDING FACILITY SITE

With a powerful Welcome to Country from Warumungu woman Shalee James, members of the community, Working Group, Aboriginal Alliance and Backbone met with Ashford Lamaya Architects and their team, at the site of the Tennant Creek Student Boarding Facility on Dec 13. Followed by a workshop to hear the Working Group's views on the design and operations of the facility, this was the first in several planned meetings to ensure there is community voice and decision making in this Facility due to open in 2026.



About The Tennant Creek Student Boarding Facility

- In community consultations in 2018, some Barkly families said they would like their children to go to high school and board in the Barkly, on Country.
- A Student Boarding Facility was selected as project no. 18 under the Barkly Regional Deal
- In 2019, the NT Govt chose the site for the 40 bed Boarding Facility, next to TC High School
- The Facility will be for students from across the Barkly and Tennant Creek



- \$16 million dollars has been committed from the Federal and NT Governments.
- A Working Group, including community and government people is working together to make decisions about the design and operations of the facility

WHO IS IN THE STUDENT BOARDING FACILITY WORKING GROUP AND WHAT DO THEY DO?



The Working Group has 12 members and Georgina Bracken is Chair. Members include people in the community with local knowledge and expertise like Coralie James and Tony Lake, as well as people from the Govt agencies delivering and funding the project like Jen Hewitson from the Federal Dept of Infrastructure, Maisie Floyd from NTG Dept of Education and Sally O'Callaghan from NTG Dept of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics.

The Group started in March 2023 and meets fortnightly. Their purpose is to support community and govt working and making decisions together so the project will have better outcomes for people in the Barkly. Recently they oversaw community consultations for the project.



CONSULTATIONS ACROSS THE BARKLY INCLUDE COMMUNITY VOICES IN THE STUDENT BOARDING FACILITY

The Barkly Backbone Team led consultations from July to Dec 2023 across the Barkly with students, families, community leaders, teachers and service providers to collect their views about the Facility.

In total we heard from 130 people through focus groups and surveys across seven communities:

- Ampilitwatja
- Ali Curung
- Mungkarta
- Canteen Creek
- Wakurlpu
- Elliot
- Tennant Creek



WHAT DID COMMUNITES SAY ABOUT THE BOARDING FACILITY?

People told us that these things are really important at the facility:

- Safety and security
- Trusting relationships and communication with house parents & teachers
- Quality education and wellbeing for students
- Staff who speak Barkly languages and have local knowledge
- Structured after school activities, extra learning support and work experience
- Elders and cultural mentors
- Support for families to visit students



GET IN TOUCH:

If you want to have your say about the Student Boarding Facility or if you'd like to hear everything community members told us you can:

- Drop in to see the Backbone at 163 Paterson St or
- email us at: info@barklybackbone.com.au