



A welcome to new Backbone staff

We are pleased to announce the appointment of our new Executive Officer of the Backbone Team, Deborah Hartman. Deb officially took her role on July 24, 2023, and as a long-term resident of Tennant Creek, she brings an invaluable blend of experience and local insight. Further energising our August Governance Table meeting, we were joined by four members of the Barkly Aboriginal Alliance, and their newly appointed Coordinator, and Backbone staff member, Cyril Franey. Cyril described how the Alliance's momentum is growing including a membership recruitment drive across the Barkly. For more news on this, please refer to the accompanying Alliance report.

Completed Projects: A Brief Overview

The Governance Table was happy to formalise the completion of six Barkly Regional Deal Projects:

- Initiative 7: Upgrade Alpururulam Airstrip
- Initiative 17: Multi-purpose accommodation facility
- Initiative 20: Community Sports Program
- Initiative 21: Aged care services in the Barkly Region
- Initiative 22: Childcare places - investigation of options
- Initiative 26: Arts Centre in Elliott - Feasibility Study

In November, the Governance Table members will review the six completed projects to determine:

- What benefit they brought to Barkly communities?
- What lessons we learn from them?
- What needs to happen next to work towards the outcomes communities want to see?

Our First Communique

Welcome to the first edition of the Barkly Regional Deal Governance Table Communique for 2023.

The purpose of this communique is to inform and engage you in the work of the Governance Table including progress on Barkly Regional Deal projects as well as decisions and plans in our collaborative efforts to drive positive changes in the Barkly. This communique will help you understand and communicate to others what is being achieved, the challenges we are addressing, who is doing the work and how you can be more involved.

Thank you for joining us on this exciting journey!

Header image by Tash Adams, Barkly Regional Council.

Project Updates

The Barkly Regional Council (BRC) gave an update on the Tennant Creek Youth Centre. At August 17th,

- BRC was awaiting the final certificate of occupancy
- BRC had released expressions of interest for first three years of operation.

Since then,

- The Independent Chair of the Governance Table, Mr Sean Gordon, and community representative, Ms Pat Brahim, wrote to the BRC seeking clarification on the delayed opening and offered assistance to ensure it was opened as soon as possible.
- The keys were delivered and;
- The BRC now has a plan to commence operation of the TCYC and open it for activities at the start of the upcoming September school holidays.

The Barkly Business Hub opening is scheduled for October 4th. The opening program will include workshops for local people interested in developing and strengthening engagement in entrepreneurial activities. A panel of local Aboriginal voices from the Barkly Aboriginal Alliance will explore economic opportunities and challenges in Barkly communities. The Barkly Futures Forum will now be held in February 2024.



Tennant Creek Youth Centre

Deep Collaboration Workshop leads to action

Thirty Barkly Regional Deal partners convened for a two-day Deep Collaboration Workshop in Tennant Creek in July. The purpose of the workshop was to fortify trust, nurture collaborative relationships, and support our collective impact work in the Barkly.

Outcomes from the workshop included a strong commitment to our shared vision, purpose and principles. At the August meeting, the Governance Table endorsed a comprehensive list of priorities and actions that emerged from the workshop. A key early action is to develop a strategic plan. These actions are a clear blueprint providing direction and accountability for our work.



A photo from the Deep Collaboration Workshop

Community Law and Justice Proposal

The Governance Table has given their endorsement in principle an innovative proposal: co-designing a community-led Law and Justice partnership model. This initiative aims to deepen community involvement in justice processes and aligns with Barkly Regional Deal priorities, such as 'Safe Kids and Youth' and 'Strong Culture and Wellbeing.' In collaboration with Patta and local leaders, a

dedicated Working Group is being formed to co-design the model's framework, functionality, and objectives. The scope of the Law and Justice work may encompass innovative approaches like involving Elders in court proceedings, community courts, mediation, governance and leadership training, as well as cultural healing programs and community safety plans. If you are interested in contributing to this transformative project, please contact the Backbone Team.



Closing the Gap

During the August meeting, the Governance Table reviewed a compelling presentation by the Backbone Team that highlighted the synergy between the Barkly Regional Deal's priorities and the Closing the Gap targets. Going forward, Working Groups and selected initiatives will be held accountable by reporting against these shared outcomes, so we can demonstrate our contribution to changes and priorities at the local and national levels

The next meeting

The next Governance Table meeting has been scheduled for **November 9, 2023**, and community members are warmly invited to join and participate in discussions.