

# BARKLY ABORIGINAL ALLIANCE COMMUNIQUE



## Final Governance Table Meeting for 2023

The Alliance met for the final Governance Table meeting of the year with the 3 levels of government, local community leaders and local business. The table was led by Independent Chair Sean Gordon, who has been appointed by the Table to carry on as Chair for 2024. The Alliance utilised their 4 seats at the table and gave updates on how they had recently undergone preparations to become an Incorporated entity, their membership drive and growth and plans to partake in Governance training. They also talked about budgets and how they have been meeting their KPI's and how they plan to continue strengthening themselves into a vehicle to help drive the needs of Aboriginal people in the Barkly.



The Barkly Aboriginal Alliance represents 11 Aboriginal language groups across the Barkly, and as a member of the Governance Table, has a core role in representing Aboriginal communities as the Deal is implemented and beyond the Deal itself.

## Community Visits to Epenarra and Canteen Creek

The Backbone and Alliance travelled to Epenarra and Canteen Creek to meet with community members, Central Land Council and Govt partners. They held meetings in both communities to discuss the communities' applications of *Local Community Projects Fund* grants. Epenarra had raised concerns about poor lighting in the playground and other communal areas which would benefit from solar lights, that the grant funds would go towards. Canteen Creek talked about ongoing issues with donkeys freely roaming around the community, causing environmental damages, destruction of property and impact on the safety of children and adults. They hope to receive a grant that will help put a secure fence around the community.



## Workshop with Impact North

Members of the Alliance and local community leaders joined for a workshop with *Impact North* and the *Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (DITT)*, which was held at the *Barkly Business Hub* in Tennant Creek. *Impact North* is a community of social entrepreneurs committed to positive change in Northern Australia. They facilitated the workshop to meet with Indigenous people who had business ideas and wanted information about what is involved in starting up a business and getting directed to the right services. The Alliance members spoke about the importance of having such services available to those living in remote areas in the Barkly and had a follow up meeting with them to brainstorm how they could collaborate to deliver workshops out there. Talks will continue in the new year.



## Alliance meets with Wilya Janta



The Alliance met with the *Wilya Janta Housing Collaboration* who gave a presentation about culturally safe and climate-appropriate housing for remote Aboriginal communities. They explained that it was a housing collaboration between Traditional Owners, medical professionals, architects, and local tradespeople. They showed how building houses in the Barkly could be done in such a way where Indigenous people could be in the design process from the beginning and built the way they wanted, in a more cultural and practical way.

## Final Alliance Meeting of the year

The Alliance met over two days, which was their last meeting for the year. They had more new members attend, showing further representation of the wider remote Barkly region. The group was involved in a survey / information gathering session with *Ngakkan Nyaagu Pty Limited (NGNY)*, who were contracted by the *Power and Water Authority* to gain valuable community feedback about their service delivery in the remote regions. They also had a feedback / measuring change and evaluation session where they provided valuable community insights for the *Visitor Park* and *Student Boarding Facility Working Groups*. The *Student Boarding Facility Working Group*, which includes Alliance members, and local community leaders will meet with the architects doing the build, to ensure that there is community consultation. There will be a site meeting and workshop.

Government partners were invited to talk with the group about the Alliance being a step closer to becoming the *Barkly Alliance Aboriginal Corporation* and to help strategise what the next steps might look like. The Alliance endorsed its Terms of Reference and developed its Draft Rule Book during a recent meeting with consultants.

Then they handled their regular agenda items to ensure they were staying on track with their desired outcomes and also started talking about possible activities, meeting dates and outcomes for early next year. The Alliance ended their meeting with a Christmas party at *Woks Up* Chinese restaurant.

