Barkly Regional Deal

Governance Table Meeting 20
Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 19 April 2023

Held at the Barkly Regional Council Chambers in Tennant Creek

Chair: Sean Gordon

Secretariat: Jen Hewitson

Governance Table Members in attendance:
Pat Brahim & Tony Miles (Aboriginal Corporations Leadership Group), Lachlan Wilkins (Northern Territory Government Chief Minister & Cabinet), Warren H Williams & Joanne McPhee (Barkly Backbone Team), Georgina Bracken and Claire Keen (Barkly Community Network), Allen Punch, Mervyn Franey & Graham Calma (Barkly Aboriginal Alliance), Joey Carter (Business Network), Matthew Roper (Commonwealth Government, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and Arts)

In attendance:
Dawn Swan, Graham Calma, Dianne Curtis (Barkly Aboriginal Alliance), Craig Humphries & Bill Sankey (Northern Territory Government, Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade.

Online attendance:
Fiona Yule (Commonwealth Government, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and Arts), Byron Matthews (National Indigenous Australians Agency), Tara Day – Williams (Commonwealth Government, Department of Social Services) and Craig Cuttance (non-Governance Table member, National Indigenous Australians Agency)

Apologies:
Soana Vaihu (Northern Territory Government, Territory Families), Stewart Willey (Youth Network), Russell Anderson (Barkly Regional Council)

Support:
Lucy McGarry (Barkly Backbone Team), Sarah de Saville (Commonwealth Government, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and Arts), Sean Hartley (Northern Territory Government, Chief Minister and Cabinet), Jen Hewitson (Commonwealth Government, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and Arts)

Absent:
Barkly Regional Council, Central Land Council & Northern Land Council

Opening – Governance Table

Governance Table Meeting opened: 1pm in Tennant Creek

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Barkly Regional Deal

1.1 Introduction / Housekeeping / Apologies &

1.2 Acknowledgement of Country (Sean Gordon and Warren H Williams)

- Welcome to Country
- Acknowledgement of recent Sorry Business and losses and that Sorry Business pushed the GT back from 2 March 2023 to 19 – 20 April 2023
- Bill Sankey and Craig Humphries introduced themselves to the Governance Table.

2.2 Correspondence (Sean Gordon)

- Bridgette Bellenger has stepped down. The Chair noted she has been a great champion. Soana Vaihu will come on in place of Bridgette.
- Tiger Fitz submitted his resignation. His contribution and leadership was acknowledged as was his honest and open conversations at the Table. A new member replacing Tiger is Shaylee James.
- The Chair suggested a community member from the GT be a co-signatory on correspondence; GT to think about it and for further discussion at Ali Curung.

1.4 Confirmation of previous minutes

- Minutes were noted.

1.5 Action items (Backbone EO)

- It was noted during action items that Barkly Regional Council, responsible for a number of actions was not present and also that Alliance members had not been paid allowances on time as previously committed to by BRC.
- The Action Item relating to Community Project Fund resulted in a discussion regarding the number of applications for Community Project Fund requiring assessment, communities requiring assistance with grants. Alliance members requested a project officer to assist it and others with assessment of grant applications.
- As part of this discussion Mervyn Franey provided an update from the Alliance wanting assistance with grant funding applications. He suggested a part time project officer to do this.
- The NIAA Homeland's Housing and Infrastructure Program of $100 million was raised by Mervyn and discussion ensued regarding access to same.
- Utilsing the Admin Group to take over delegation to approve grant funding applications was raised by the Chair who believed it was a previous action item or had previously been discussed.
- Due to the movement of discussion away from the Action Items, the Governance Table agreed to follow up the remaining Action Items in Ali Curung.

3.1 CDP Trial in Tennant Creek (Carol Hermans)

- Carol Hermans, CEO of RN who is delivering the CDP trial in Tennant Creek provided an update on the current CDP trials in Tennant Creek.
- Byron provided a general update on the CDP change with the new government; Ministers desire real change in CDP. There is a trial that has been approved. CDP current contracts go to Oct 2024; this came from consultations, round tables. Over the next 18 months the government will be able to be in a position consider learnings.

3.2 EGWD Working Group Update

- This was moved to day 2 of the Governance Table meeting at Ali Curung.

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3.3 Barkly Business Hub (BBH) (Craig Humphries)
- Craig Humphreys, interim Director DITT provided an update on completion of the Business Hub, expected occupation timeframes and the launch expected to be in August.
- Three meeting rooms in the Hub required naming and assistance was requested.
- GT discussion regarding the delivery of services from the Hub to support local businesses and engage local corporations.

4.1 Next Meeting (Thursday, 20 April 2023, Ali Curung)

Discussion lead by Chair about how Ali Curung will unfold, who will speak on behalf of GT.

Meeting Close: 3pm

DAY 2: Ali Curung

5.2 Welcome to Country
- Peter Corbett from Ali Curung welcomed the Governance Table to the community.

5.3 Opened for Community questions and 6.1 Community Discussion
- Valda Shannon provided an overview of her history at Ali Curung.
- Other speakers raised the following issues:
    - Bus to go to football in Alice Springs and to take the old people shopping. There is an application for the bus in development (Community Projects Fund)
    - Jessie and other ladies say there is a need for 2 more dialysis chairs
    - Streetlights – BRC have sought quotes Murray Downs
    - Playgrounds – northside, eastside and southside
    - Music Art Centre Co-ordinator advised it was time to open music centre back up. Music as healing
    - Refurbishment of the radio station

6.2 Barkly Aboriginal Alliance Update
- Barkly Aboriginal Alliance spoke to community members about joining the Alliance.

6.3 Ali Curung Youth Centre Update
- Darren from BRC was unable to provide an update on the Youth Centre.

Governance Table Meeting commenced 1pm

Held at the Barkly Regional Council meeting room in Ali Curung

Chair: Sean Gordon

Secretariat: Jen Hewitson

Governance Table Members in attendance:
Pat Brahim & Tony Miles (Aboriginal Corporations Leadership Group), Lachlan Wilkins (Northern Territory Government Chief Minister & Cabinet), Joanne McPhee (Barkly Backbone Team), Georgina Bracken and Claire Keen (Barkly Community Network), Valda Shannon, Allen Punch, Mervyn Franey & Graham Calma (Barkly Aboriginal Alliance), Joey Carter (Business Network), Shaylee James (Patta) Byron Matthews (NIAA), Matthew Roper (Commonwealth Government, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and Arts), Darren Lovett (Barkly Regional Council).

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Online attendance:
Tara Day-Williams (Commonwealth Government, Department of Social Services and Deb Cleverly (Barkly Backbone Team)

Apologies:
Soana Vaihu (Northern Territory Government, Territory Families), Russell Anderson (Barkly Regional Council)

Support:
Lucy McGarry (Barkly Backbone Team), Sarah de Saville (Commonwealth Government, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and Arts), Sean Hartley (Northern Territory Government, Chief Ministers and Cabinet), Jen Hewitson (Commonwealth Government, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and Arts)

Absent:
Central Land Council & Northern Land Council

Recap of the Ali Curung Community meeting preceding the Governance Table meeting
- The GT reflected on the community meeting. Identified it was very honest and frank feedback from the community and they should be consulted with.
- Peter and Valda were thanked for formal contributions to the community meeting.
- The Chair identified the GT needs to be able to communicate the issues of the Ali Curung Youth Centre. Council representative was in attendance and the Chair requested a brief to the Table so that when members of the GT are asked a question, they have a response.

ACTION: Barkly Regional Council to provide a briefing on the progress of the Ali Curung Youth Centre build out of session.

5.1 Introduction / Housekeeping / Apologies
- Introduction to new Governance Table Member Shaylee James. Shaylee is an apprentice in Information Technology with Aniniyningi Health. She was born in Alice Springs, lived in Tennant Creek all her life. The Chair called on everyone to support Shaylee.
- Recap from yesterday's meeting in Tennant Creek. Yesterday we didn't endorse the minutes or make a decision relating to the Community Projects Fund decision making.

The minutes were taken as read and endorsed by the Governance Table.

RESOLUTION: The Governance Table resolved to delegate authority to approve all Community Projects Fund applications to the Administration Group.

3.2 Barkly Regional Workforce Strategy (carried over from yesterday's meeting in Tennant Creek) (Byron Matthews & Craig Cuttance)
- The paper 'Economic Growth and Regional Workforce Development Working Group Report – Barkly Regional Workforce Strategy 2030 and proposed approach to the Implementation of the Economic Growth and Workforce Development Strategies was tabled.
- Discussion: Opportunity for the groups to pull both the Regional Workforce and Economic Development strategies together to develop implementation plan. How to fund this - looking for $500k. What do foundation skills really mean; the issue of housing in Tennant Creek and how to connect housing back to the key issues in the Strategy. Housing needs to be brought to the fore in this Strategy;

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The Working Group needs to look at the Workforce Strategy, the Barkly Mining and Energy Services Offer, CDP and Maximising Aboriginal Employment initiatives of the Deal. NLC and CLC need to be at the table.

The Governance Table **endorsed** the *Barkly Regional Workforce Strategy 2030* as meeting the development component of the Barkly Regional Deal initiative "Developing and implementing a Regional Workforce Strategy". The Governance Table **supported** the Working Group's proposed approach to the implementation of the Economic Growth and Regional Workforce Development Strategies.

6.6 Barkly Community Justice Pilot (Lachlan Wilkins)
Two papers were tabled: Barkly Community Justice Pilot on a page and Proposal for Barkly Community Justice Pilot.
Lachlan provided an overview of the paper and options establishing a Working Group to look at options, and maybe build from it a law and justice group.

- There is both AJA work from NTG, and Youth Justice Reinvestment in 2023.
- Youth Justice Reinvestment - if there are savings of instead of incarcerations, those funds could be used for a pilot.
- Chair suggested a letter from the Table to say they are interested in the Youth reinvestment early.
- Justice lead partnerships are keen on community lead change.
- Patta needs to discuss this first. They need a better name of this first, and what it could look like, they need to give a bit of a brief.
- The one page document which was the one everyone worked on, is the proposed process.

The Governance Table **endorsed** the recommendations in the one page document - to **support** in-principle a model that enables the Barkly community to be more involved in regional justice issues and processes, using the Barkly Regional Deal agreement; and **agreed** to establish a Working Group to develop what the model looks like (structure) and what it does (scope).

7.1.2 Monitoring and Evaluation (Lucy McGarry)
- Late paper submitted by Lucy McGarry with verbal presentation.
- Measuring change is difficult because we have been doing it retrospectively as in 2019 when the Deal was announced the measuring impacts were not defined. Requested the Measuring Change Working Group to be re-established. Requested someone from the GT to be the Chair of the Working Group. Requested if the GT could evaluate itself after each meeting. Requested the principles are measured at the next GT meeting. Claire Keen nominated as Chair of WG and Shaylee will be on WG as well.

The Governance Table **endorsed** changes to the principles rubric and reporting requirements against it; **endorsed** the reduced list of outcomes indicators and reporting requirements against it; **noted** that the Backbone is working with SEER to develop a data platform for all the MEL data; **endorsed** the re-establishment of the Measuring Change Working Group for Phase Two of the MEL work.

ACTION: Governance Table will evaluate itself using the principles at the next Governance Table meeting.

2.1 Backbone Executive Officer Report (Joanne McPhee) (carried over from yesterday)

- Restating the purpose of the Backbone to assist the GT to implement the 28 initiatives, to address system changes in the Barkly, maintaining and coordinating the Alliance.
- Background work examining minute and action items has highlighted decision making and the recording of actions is untidy. This work will assist future EO to have visibility of history of initiatives and the GT to understand where things stand now.

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- Migration of data to Microsoft office has occurred.
- Employed Project Admin Officer, Community Engagement Lead and EO recruitment underway. Having difficulty attracting an Aboriginal person for the Alliance Coordinator role.
- Increasing comms taskings which Backbone is not funded to do.
- Website is being updated.
- Council audited reports for 21/22 have been completed. $64k underspend.
- Looking at purchasing a data platform for Website. Other Backbones use SEER. It is $50k set up, with $30k annual registration. Will be presented to the Admin Group in due course.
- Auspice agreement with Council needs to be created.
- Advised some GT members have requested meeting each 2 months. Declined by GT.
- The outcome document for the Feasibility Study for the Elliott Arts Centre Initiative hasn't been Tabled on the Website. Discussion regarding putting the outcome reports on the website or project closure reports.

ACTION: Backbone to bring completed projects back to the Table with Project Closure Report for consideration.

- GT was asked if it wished to progress the strategic plan.
- GT was asked if it wished to sign off on the GT Handbook.
- Discussion on Backbone becoming and independent entity.

7.1 Crisis Youth Support (Lachlan Wilkins)
- Late paper submitted. Staffing profile and location at Wattle Street not feasible. The operating model is not sustainable. Need to reduce the costs for running so the dollar can be spent on services. Could look at a NTG house to refurbish as a starting point.

The Governance Table **noted** the update including that the proposed Wattle Street site is not a viable option; and **approved** the working group to finalise the scope of the grant application with an alternative site location.

6.4 Traffic Light Report
- Backbone EO raised issues with traffic light report. This report needs to have truth-telling in terms of progress, budget and timeframes.
- Discussion: Be clear on what the GT wants, and then we will work to that. The template should be specific about funding, expenditure to date. Timelines need to be clear and due dates. There is BRD principles column, can it align with which initiatives align to which of the 5 priorities and each of the indicators.

ACTION: Backbone to work with the Admin Group to modify the template for the TLR and include employment figures.

ACTION: Change the Weather Radar on the TLR from purple to yellow as it is now a project due next year.

RESOLUTION: Pat Brahim will be the co-signatory to correspondence on behalf of the GT.

Meeting concluded**:** 3pm

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6