

Barkly Regional Deal

Governance Table Meeting 21 Meeting Minutes

Opening – Governance Table

Governance Table Meeting opened at 9.35am Thursday 17 August 2023

Held at the Barkly Regional Council Chambers in Tennant Creek

Chair: Deb Hartman

Minutes: Jo McPhee

1.1 Introduction / Housekeeping / Apologies & Quorum

Governance Table Members in attendance:

Pat Brahim & Tony Miles (Aboriginal Corporations Leadership Group), Lachlan Wilkins (Northern Territory Government Chief Minister & Cabinet), Soana Vaihu (Territory Families, Housing and Communities), Dawn Swan, Valerie Curtis, Mervyn Franey & Graeme Calma (Barkly Aboriginal Alliance), Byron Matthews (National Indigenous Australians Agency), Shalee James (Patta Corporation), Troy Koch & Sunil Neupane (Barkly Regional Council), Mollie Middleton – proxy for Georgina Bracken (NGO Sector).

Online attendance:

Fiona Yule (Commonwealth Government, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and Arts), Jenny Joyce (Commonwealth Department of Social Services); Matthew Roper (Commonwealth Government, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and Arts)

Apologies:

Sean Gordon (Independent Chair) Georgina Bracken and Claire Keen (Barkly Community Network), Joey Carter (Business Network), Kym Brahim (Patta Corporation) Tara Day – Williams (Commonwealth Government, Department of Social Services)

Support:

Lucy McGarry, Warren H Williams, Cyril Franey (Barkly Backbone Team) Sarah de Saville & Tim Candler (Commonwealth Government, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and Arts), Harry Abrahams and Craig Cuttance (National Indigenous Australians Agency), Dianne Curtis (Aboriginal Alliance), Clarissa Burgen (Northern Territory Chief Minister and Cabinet).

Absent:

Central Land Council & Northern Land Council

1.2 Acknowledgement of Country (Pat Brahim)

- Pat Brahim acknowledged the meeting being held on the land of the Warumungu people. Through recounting stories of the movement of Aboriginal people and communities to Tennant Creek and unfulfilled commitments by successive Governments, Pat reminded the Governance Table that the



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people of the Barkly need to see that things are going to change for the better, for the Aboriginal people. There must be grounding in truth telling and a reminder why we are here.

- Affirmation of vision and way of working: Lucy McGarry presented the Governance Table Theory of Change, its vision and five outcome areas for further focus the Governance Table on its work.

Vision: Strong Barkly communities and healthy families determining our future and thriving in both worlds

Outcome Areas: Safe kids and youth, learning in both worlds, self-determination and meaningful jobs, strong culture and wellbeing, quality services.

1.3 Reflections – Deep Collaboration Workshop

- Some GT members shared their key takeaways from the meeting.
- The paper *Actions from the Deep Collaboration Workshop*, prepared by the Backbone Team was tabled and the recommendations read out.
- Discussion regarding having the meetings each 8 weeks. Concerns about the ability of government partners and working groups to respond effectively in this quick turn-around.
- Alliance supports meetings each 8 weeks as this is in line with Alliance meeting timeframes but also raised the need for the time to take information back to Homelands.
- There has only been one GT meeting this year due to the March meeting being cancelled. Because of this, there has been a reduced amount of time to action agenda items, which is unusual.
- In support of meetings each quarter NTG can provide updates to Alliance if required between meetings.
- There are two issues that arose from the Deep Collaboration meeting, one is the 28 initiatives. The second is working together better and aligning to the future, Barkly voice or whatever that may be. In thinking about this proposal, if the GT meet every 8 weeks, there doesn't need to be working group reports every meeting, but more strategic discussions can occur.
- Government ministers are interested in delivery for community being more transparent and accountable, communicating and implementing. Get a target of things we want to get done this year and agreement on that and having a look at meeting schedule for GT in 2024.
- More meetings doesn't mean more accomplishment. Needs to be targeted if each 8 weeks.
- Concerns the Table is not operating as a Governance Table; ticking off recommendations instead of making decisions about where we need to go. A strategic plan is important; the operational side will always dictate but we need to be strategic.

In relation to the recommendations in the paper, the Governance Table:

Endorsed the priorities outlined in this paper and authorised the Backbone Team to use these priorities as a basis for development of a 12-month strategic plan for the Table.

Did not endorse the Governance table to meet every 8 weeks.

Endorsed the release a short communique about the outcomes of each meeting, in an appropriate format to be widely distributed amongst multiple stakeholders.

Endorsed adapting the GT agenda format to 1) reflect vision, principles and respectful ways of working together and 2) to include a substantial amount of time for strategic thinking about the next steps towards the Governance table structure as an entity and forward planning for the role of the GT beyond the 28 initiatives.

1.4 Confirmation of previous minutes



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- The minutes were accepted with an amendment to page 3 to show that Byron Matthews was present at the meeting.

ACTION: Backbone Team to amend the minutes to reflect a change of the draft minutes of meeting 20 at page 3 to show that Bryon Matthews was present.

1.5 Action items (Backbone Executive Officer)

- It was noted that there were several outstanding action items from previous meetings. Due to time constraints, these will be visited in detail at the next meeting with a view to closing out as many as possible.

1.6 Conflicts of Interest Disclosure

- None declared.

2.1 Executive Officer Report and Workplan

- The Executive Officer tabled her report and workplan which was **noted**.

RESOLUTION: It was determined that the Backbone Team is the coordinating lead on media monitoring; and agencies and partners will communicate media issues to the Backbone Team for a coordinated response.

2.2 Aboriginal Alliance Report – Mervyn Franey (Interim Chair) provided a verbal report:

- Alliance has appointed Mervyn Franey as interim chair.
- Alliance Coordinator position filled. Mervyn was not involved in recruitment as the incumbent is his son, Cyril Franey.
- Alliance members working closely with Alliance Coordinator in the recruitment drive for Alliance members from all 4 sections of the Barkly.
- Membership drive has been a challenge. Now have a strategic approach. BBT to assist.
- Incorporation of Alliance. Alliance engaged in two-day workshop with consultant to help go through the incorporation. Putting a bit of meat on the structure. Still work to be done but key outcomes were achieved in the last couple of days - endorsed terms of reference for incorporation, a draft rule book and an action plan for next steps.
- Upcoming Leadership in Collaboration workshops - one in Melbourne and one in Canberra, 1 Alliance member and 2 BBT to attend. Hopefully will help us in those areas and get more understanding of deep collaboration and how we can link in with everything.
- Community grants panel – issue of getting a quorum, we decided to have a number of reps that can be available at any given point.
- Communications difficult in communities. Working on that.
- BBT and Alliance members meeting people in communities are carrying information on BRD initiatives such as the visitor park and the boarding facility. We want to be careful about the perception of responsibility for those initiatives, which sit with government agency leads. We need to be careful how discussions are conducted out there. Alliance wants to be involved in Working Groups that are relevant to membership in the homelands and communities.
- Alliance members are currently involved in five working groups.
- Lachlan Wilkins requested that when attending communities, to reach out to other agencies as a lot of work overlaps.

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- Pat Brahim observed it was the intention for the Alliance to work collaboratively with native title holders, Aboriginal Corporations Leadership Group (ACLG) which hasn't been signed off due to Alliance not having been fully formed. There is discussion at those meetings regarding the role of the Alliance. Pat recommended Cyril make contact with Patta and ACLG.

ACTION: Alliance Coordinator to write to Patta and ACLG advising them of his role and direction.

Morning Tea 1110hrs to 1130hrs.

2.3 28 Initiatives Traffic Light Report

- It was noted that changes to the Traffic Light Report (TLR) included a column identifying funding expenditure.
- The most current version was not distributed among meeting papers and will be circulated afterwards.

ACTION: Backbone Team to distribute most recent version of Traffic Light Report which included Commonwealth Government updates.

2.4 Project Completion Summary

- This agenda item proposed a five-minute verbal report about the project closure reports with a more substantial discussion at the next meeting including discussion about completion and communicating the reports.
- Desire to get project implementation shown. To follow up on next Governance Table meeting. Commonwealth prepared a summary of five completed projects.
- Should be communicated to community. The lessons learned need to be consistently rolled out from these closure reports.

3.1 Working Group Updates

3.1.1 – Projects led by TFHC – Soana Vaihu

- A paper was tabled with Soana Vaihu who provided an accompanying verbal update.
- TFHC and Patta to meet Wednesday 23 August re Youth Justice Facility.
- The Governance Table noted next steps and there will be a further report at the next GT meeting.

3.1.2 Economic Growth/Regional Workforce Development Working Group

- A paper was tabled by Pat Brahim. Discussion followed regarding the best way to move this initiative forward given the breadth of focus areas.
- Need to get lessons learned from previous projects regarding Aboriginal employment.
- Data needs to be part of the discussion.
- Number of jobs created from Barkly Regional Deal initiatives is in data evaluation. There was agreement to have a column in the Traffic Light Report so there is more accountability.
- Resourcing of this initiative needs to be considered and very clear.
- Where are the accountability mechanisms in all working groups and project implementing and what comes back to the Table for oversight and decision making?

ACTION: Government to audit their projects to see what the employment opportunities were.

ACTION: Commonwealth and NTG will keep auditing projects to obtain lessons learned.

- Working Group was seeking advice regarding seat at the table currently for Business Sector. Suggested approach to Chamber of Commerce.



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ACTION: Government partners to return to next GT meeting with indication of what resources are available to support the Regional Workforce Working Group.

3.1.3 Boarding Facility – Lucy McGarry

- Lucy McGarry tabled a draft paper not included in the meeting pack, which was noted. There were a number of attachments referred to in the report which were not available in print due to large number of colour pages.

3.1.4 Government Investment Service System Reform

- A paper was tabled. Discussion ensued regarding mapping exercises and what to map; the end user experience?
- TFHC can tell you about what youth services are available but not quality of services. A case study is more qualitative which can be applied to other areas depending on what the ultimate outcome.
- Reminder about the original purpose of the reform piece. Suggest the scope responds to that purpose.
- Opportunity to access DSS funding to Backbone to assist work in a collective impact and collaborative way. We have good tools for this approach to a case study which can include true views of the community and what they think the outcomes should be.

The Governance Table **noted** the report and agreed to a case study approach.

ACTION: Soana Vaihu to provide a briefing at the next meeting regarding youth.

3.1.5 Trauma Informed Care – Tony Miles

- Verbal update provided.
- Project Team meetings recommenced.
- Discussion \$3m in funding for training component and treatment component. Training being delivered by We-AI-li concludes January 2024.
- This community education work is not complete and requires further support past the funded time. Trying to imbed trauma informed care in practices and polices. Quite a number of trauma champion sessions have been going on.
- Treatment component hasn't gotten off the ground. Based on We-AI-li model, developed by Anyinginyi and AMSANT.
- Been some discussion around the model and its roll out through schools and how to reach other young people not attending school. Departments are critical to the roll out. Policy to create systems have been prepared by Judy Atkinson.
- Recommendations that a presentation outlining the impact of trauma and the need for trauma informed practiced to be embedded in GT and other agencies be put on the agenda.
- Presentation of what is trauma and impact and connection to the entire BRD. This is going back to the people we are supposed to be helping here. Then there is embedding that practice in all agencies. Not just for Anyinginyi and Territory Families, its for schools hospitals, family services, everything.
- Paper for the next meeting, discussion needs to be had while we've got Judy Kaye and Doug delivering until 2024, after that needs to be part of the discussion now.
- Three years idol, 1.5 years doing things, but no change in the future.

ACTION: Presentation to commence embedding Trauma Informed practice in the work of the Governance Team and all partner agencies to be placed on next Governance Table Agenda.

ACTION: Backbone team to distribute two papers on the model and on how it could inform Service System Reform.



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ACTION: Trauma Informed Care Project Team with support from Backbone Team to develop a paper to approach the three tiers of Government to extend funding for Trauma Informed Care initiative past 2024.

3.1.6 Measuring Change – Lucy McGarry

- Lucy McGarry presented a spreadsheet to demonstrate how the outcomes framework designed in 2021-2022 aligns with Northern Territory Government Social Outcomes Framework and Closing the Gap targets. Opportunity to do valuable data collection in the Barkly.

ACTION: The Backbone Team will meet with each of the Government leads to develop indicators for their programs that are consistent with the existing rubric developed by the Backbone Team.

Lunch 12.40pm to 1.10pm

4.1 Barkly Community Justice Pilot – Lachlan Wilkins

- Relates to a number of initiatives - BRD Initiative, 5, 6 and 25.
- Goes to the core of respecting and reinforcing cultural authority that has been damaged and impacted by government decisions. People advise there is nothing there now
- Some community views are that they want control of the money and the initiative. All funding for the initiatives remain and the GT and community can shape what this looks like and track the spend.
- Patta primarily engaged with initially, acknowledging that much of the disruption and challenges happen on Patta country. From native title group, agreed to support of concept. Alternative is community safety. Need to work out how to put responsibility back on community members from places like Ali Curung who come to town. We do welcome to country but young people see these towns as whitefella space. Support on paper. Need to build on it.
- To do this conversation about investing resources in project coordinator. Could look like a work program, shared secretariat.
- Community and table support this, here is a vision, we want to buy in. Unlikely to be challenged for resourcing.
- This model has scope for prevention and early intervention. Synergies for this and trauma informed model together. BRADAAG also doing reforms and want to do trauma informed as well. Long term healing, prevention.
- Original intent of community mediation was much broader and would have included programs like this. Needs to go to the table but not a redirection of funds.
- Opportunity to frame this pilot within agreed principles of Department of Social Services.

The Governance Table **endorsed** the initiative in principle and expects further consultation with native title group.

ACTION: Chief Minister and Cabinet continues with this direction the Community Justice Pilot paper outlines and continues to update the Governance Table.

4.2 Nomination of members For Local Community Project Grants Assessment Panel

- Discussion regarding nominations for the Assessment Panel.
- Backlog of grants waiting to be assessed.
- Proposal instead of having three names, can we have a pool of people who could be called upon, endorsed by the Table so that at any one time when a grant is to be assessed, we can set up a meeting and go ahead with it.



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- Tony on panel since it started. Assisted to develop guidelines. Matter of Backbone Team having to induct members into processes. Most welcome to have more members, Tony looking to stand down.
- NTG offer of mentoring to new members.
- Funding opportunities available from other funders as well.

ACTION: paper to be prepared by NTG and Council detailing expenditure of community projects fund.

ACTION: Panel needs to have criteria for panel composition. Deb going to look at previous documents. Are there other people who could be mentored into or have sufficient knowledge of processes.

ACTION: Pat, Tiger or Kym, Tony and Alliance representative for the current six applications to meet during week of 21 August to 25 August.

4.4 Barkly Futures Forum

- Nil formal update. Discussion regarding purpose and expected outcomes of the Forum.
- Information from the Backbone Team that Alliance and backbone team members have been invited to participate in a panel.

ACTION: Backbone Team to advise what is the opportunity, what is the Backbone role and that of Governance Table.

4.5 Upcoming Events and Ministerial Visits

- Nil current noted however discussion regarding ministerial visits for opening of Business Hub and related initiatives in light of relatively recent visits. Governance Table has not received feedback from Assistant Minister Chisholm which it is looking to obtain.

5.1 Review of agreed actions, motions including communications and correspondence arising

- Actions identified.
- Discussion re correspondence to be sent to Councillors regarding progress on the opening of the Tennant Creek Youth Centre. Commitment for Council to drive it rather than hand it off to an organisation.
- Troy Koch advised that Council was waiting for final occupancy expected to be 31 August.
- EOI's have been released for the next three years. Selection criteria and then an understanding of phase 2.
- Correspondence drafted. How Council responds is next step.
- Matt Roper advised he was moving from his position and would no longer be representative at this meeting. Matt was thanked for his participation and valuable contribution to the Governance Table.
- List of important items for communique were developed.

5.2 Next Meeting

9 November 2023

Meeting concluded at 4.30pm.