



March 2024 Communique

This month we focus on key issues raised at the March Governance Table meeting as well as changes and progress in our work.

We are now at the half way point of the BRD and community and government partners have been working to reset and improve our work for the next five years and beyond. At our Deep Collaboration Workshop in October last year (pictured above) we were asking:

- What is the role of the GT beyond the life of the BRD and its projects?
- What should a strong, community-led governance structure look like if we want to be able to respond to community priorities in the Barkly?

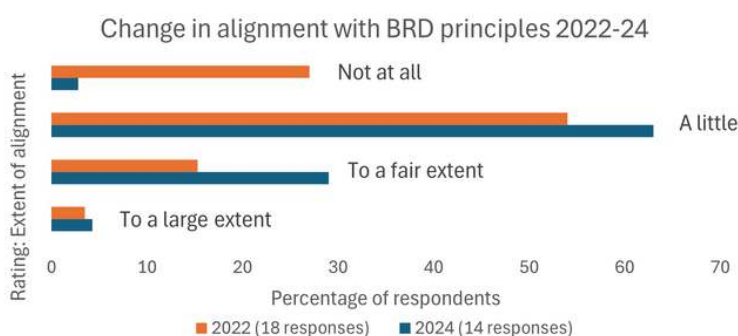
In support of this work, read about the governance review of the BRD on page two.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES COMING TO THE BARKLY

The Governance Table (GT) heard from C'wth Dept of Infrastructure Ms Lisa Rauter and other government partners about upcoming federal funding opportunities. Barkly organisations and communities could take advantage of these opportunities to improve housing, employment, social outcomes, economic development, and infrastructure in Tennant Creek and other Barkly Communities. For the full list of programs becoming available, see the Barkly Regional Deal (BRD) website [via this link](#).

BRD PRINCIPLES: ARE WE WORKING IN ALIGNMENT WITH THEM? SURVEY RESULTS FROM 2022-2024

Members reflected on how well the GT is working in alignment with the five BRD principles, in an evaluation session at the March 7 meeting. The principles were agreed by the GT in 2022 and define the way of working for the GT, Backbone and BRD working groups (see detail on page 2). Annual GT survey results below (not final as the survey is still open), show some improvements.



CALL FOR A GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF THE BARKLY REGIONAL DEAL

The Barkly Community Well-being and Safety Working Group has called for a governance review of the Barkly Regional Deal (BRD). The group has written to Senator Chisholm who visited the Barkly in March (below).



The group recently participated in a Deep Collaboration Workshop with Aboriginal Leaders and Organisations, facilitated by Collaboration for Impact. This is the third Deep Collaboration workshop held with BRD partner organisations, as the BRD resets at the half-way point of the 10-year initiative.

The review is supported by independent chair of the BRD Mr Sean Gordon, who submitted a paper to the GT, outlining a draft scope and terms of reference for the review. The GT passed three resolutions, endorsing the review of Governance Structures of the BRD and outlining an appropriate way forward. For further information about the Deep Collaboration Workshop see the BRD Website ([insert link](#))



YOUTH JUSTICE FACILITY SITE PREPARATION

Soana Vaihu from Territory Families, Housing and Communities reported that site works for the Youth Justice Facility (BRD initiative 4) are due to commence on the building site on Peko Road. The site is subject to an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA), as the land is owned by the Patta clan of the Warumungu people. One of the conditions of the ILUA states that contractors working on the site are to receive local Cultural Awareness training, to learn about local languages, culture and history and develop mutually respectful relationships with local people. It is also anticipated that local Aboriginal people will be employed on the site.

BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL ATTEMPTS TO RESOLVE DELAYS IN DELIVERY OF ALI CURUNG YOUTH CENTRE

Mr Ian Bodill from Barkly Regional Council (BRC) reported on the challenges in the Ali Curung Youth Centre project (BRD initiative 2). The project has suffered long delays and may have to be rescope and refunded before the community will finally see

their Youth Centre built and operational. The BRC has instigated legal action against the contractors who were engaged to undertake the building. The BRC hopes that this matter will be settled out of court, and that the funds can be re-allocated to a re-scoped project. The BRC are keeping the community informed through the Ali Curung Local Government Association meetings. The GT reiterated the importance of and their ongoing support for this project so that the Ali Curung community receives this much needed resource for young people.

BRD PRINCIPLES

The BRD principles were developed by the Measuring Change Working Group in 2021/2022 with input from GT, Alliance and community members from across the Barkly. They are:

1. We are community-led
2. We heal, work and learn together in the Middle Space
3. We are accountable to the community and each other
4. We build on strengths and grow capability
5. We use data and stories to reflect, learn and improve our work

The group also designed a rubric to describe what the principles look and feel like to measure our alignment with them. The rubric and detailed evaluation survey results are available on the [BRD website](#).

THE NEXT MEETING

The next Governance Table meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2024.