

Barkly Regional Deal

Governance Table Meeting 22 Meeting Minutes

Opening – Governance Table

Governance Table Meeting opened at 9.35am Thursday 9 November 2023

Held at the Barkly Regional Council Chambers in Tennant Creek

Chair: Independent Chair, Mr. Sean Gordan, AM

Minutes: Stuart Clark

1.1 Introduction / Housekeeping / Apologies & Quorum

Responses: 8 accepted the invitation, 4 apologies

Governance Table Members in attendance:

Sean Gordon (Independent Chair); Deborah Hartman, (Backbone EO); Pat Brahim & Tony Miles (Aboriginal Corporations Leadership Group (ACLG)); Lachlan Wilkins (Northern Territory Government Chief Minister & Cabinet); Soana Vaihu (Territory Families, Housing and Communities); Dorris Curtis, Ben Neade, Mervyn Franey & Graeme Calma (Barkly Aboriginal Alliance); Byron Matthews (National Indigenous Australians Agency); Ian Bodill & Troy Koch (Barkly Regional Council), Georgina Bracken and Claire Keen (NGO Sector).

Online attendance:

Fiona Yule & Lisa Rauter (Commonwealth Government, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and Arts), Tara Day-Williams & Jenny Joyce (Commonwealth Department of Social Services)

Apologies: Sunil Neupane, BRC; Jennifer Hewitson, C'wealth DIRTDC&A; Leisa McCarthy, (ACLG); Lachlan Wilkins, NT DCMC (Apologies for 9.00-10.30 am).

Support:

Lucy McGarry, Cyril Franey (Barkly Backbone Team), Sarah de Saville & Stuart Clark (Commonwealth Government, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and Arts), Harry Abrahams and Craig Cuttance (National Indigenous Australians Agency), Clarissa Burgen & Peter Burheim (Northern Territory Chief Minister and Cabinet).

Absent:

Shaylee James, Patta; Darryl Fitz, Central Land Council; Northern Land Council

1.2 Acknowledgement of Country (Pat Brahim)

Vision & Outcome Areas:

- Pat acknowledged country - and led a Minutes silence for those who have been lost
- Sean led a discussion: Vision of the Deal is important – he suggested after the meeting, the Table to go to the Youth Centre to see the fruits of BRD labour, a completed project now open.



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- the GT has been talking about the projects – the next step is to be talking about reform and responsibility for the social changes that are required.
- It is important to measure the outcomes: how the projects which are coming online are of benefit to families and communities.
eg. The Tennant Creek Youth Centre and the Barkly Business Hub are both coming online.

Reflections on the referendum,

Sean led a discussion, where people noted the disappointment of the result of the referendum. Aboriginal people are now looking to the future and thinking about a change of strategy towards hard reconciliation measures. It is not a level playing field for all Australians, the priority reforms of closing the gap for the future still have bipartisan support and implementation strategies should continue. The positives from the Referendum process are that more Aboriginal people are enrolled to vote than ever before and that there is an increased resolve on behalf of Aboriginal people to work together, take responsibility and continue to work for change.

1.3 Confirmation of previous minutes

- The minutes were accepted with an amendment to page 3 which Byron Matthews notes the 6 projects were closed – noting that there will be a reflection on the lessons learnt.

1.4 Action Items (30 minutes)

- Reinforcement that action item 73 is very important: what are the Aboriginal employment numbers, and procurement numbers from completed projects and the built-in expectations of those where contracts are to be let.
- Council notes their current organisation is fragile while in administration, and notes that impact on the BBT through their Auspice arrangement. All three tiers of government funding the BRD should be aware of this situation.

1.5 Conflicts of Interest Disclosure

- None declared.

1.6 Correspondence tabled

- Noted.

Morning Tea 1110hrs to 1130hrs.

2.1 Executive Officer Report and Workplan

- The Executive Officer tabled report and workplan.

RESOLUTION: The GT endorse a proposal for the BBT to organise a half day Strategic Planning Workshop for the GT and key stakeholder partners in early 2024, to develop a GT 5-year strategic plan based on the draft developed by the BB team from the Deep Collaboration workshop outputs.

Chair noted: The need to look at a limited structure for the working groups, no more than 4-5 groups, and identify which items/challenges fit into existing working groups.

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



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- The Alliance has signed off on papers to be lodged with ORIC for the incorporation of the Alliance as an Aboriginal Corporation.
- The Alliance has been recruiting for membership, which is close to 30 Alliance members.
- They have provided their Annual Report to NIAA for last financial year.
- They have been working with Minister Uibo's Office on opportunities for LDM strategies between her portfolio and the Alliance.
- The Coordinator has developed another Communique for the Alliance (provided).
- **Noting:** The situation of the recent fires was raised in relation to the safety of people living in outstations, homelands and communities. It was noted that the Public Information System of warnings needs to be improved. It was not as effective as it could have been during the recent fires, and for Covid. CM&C has undertaken for the NTG Government to investigate this, and report back on any possible improvements.

2.3 28 Initiatives Traffic Light Report

- **Regarding initiative LCGF** - A moratorium has been placed on the LCGF before allocating future grants, until the three tiers of government review and confirm the funding agreement for this initiative and identify the remaining funding available to the fund.
- The grant guidelines and procedures are also being reviewed by the BB EO, who will provide a draft to the Administration Group to discuss, when the amount left to allocate is finalized, and the moratorium can be lifted.

ACTIONS: The BRC will provide an update in a fortnight to the GT on the Ali Curung Youth Centre. The BB team will circulate this information out-of-session.

The BB team will convene a meeting of the Grants Panel and the Admin Group to discuss changes to the process once financial and other information is known.

3.1.7 Guest presenters: Wilya-Janta Corp presentation on housing initiative (30 minutes)

- Noted.

Action – Letter of support:

The Table endorsed the GT sending a letter of support for the housing project to the three tiers of government who all have some responsibility for housing in the NT. The letter from the GT will be drafted by the BB EO, agreed by the Admin Group and signed by the Independent Chair and Ms Pat Brahim, as a Community Representative.

It was noted that this motion was passed under modified consensus, where not every member of the table was in a position to endorse the content of the proposal, but could agree to a letter of support for the overall project being sent by the GT.

Lunch 1.20pm to 1.40pm

4.3 GISSR Barkly Business Hub Case Study Paper (Nat McCabe DITT)

RESOLUTION: The Table endorses a Case Study approach to, and the commencement of the collaborative GISSR and Business Hub Project. The project is to evaluate the outcomes of the Business Hub and track the experience of end users of the Business Hub.

It was noted that tracking outcomes for Barkly people is an important aspect of the BRD, when infrastructure projects are completed and services are provided and operating in the completed



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infrastructure. A similar Case Study Approach to tracking end user experience and evaluating the outcomes for the community could be applied to several BRD initiatives.

3.1.2 – Youth Hub - GISSR paper - Led by TFHC – Soana Vaihu

RESOLUTION: The GT supported a Case Study approach to youth provision and crisis management (see discussion above).

RESOLUTION: It was agreed the GISSR and the SPSP approaches to investigating systems change, and perspectives on how BRD initiatives may lead to improved outcomes for community members, are brought together in developing the case study methodology for all BRD initiatives.

4.2 – Community Safety and Well-being Paper – Lachlan Wilkins

RESOLUTION: GT endorsed the proposal and approach outlined in the paper.

3.1.5 Student Boarding Facility – Verbal update from Chair of Student Boarding Facility – GB

- The Working Group has been working hard to get community input into the pieces of the design which are able to receive community input into.
- Preliminary consultation has taken place with over 120 people, 20 focus groups and interviews, and 10 surveys.
- Several themes emerged in the consultations, outlined in the presentation.
- Risk - the tender for designing the building is meant to be awarded soon, the risk is compressing consultation timeframes this close to Christmas.

ACTION: Lachlan and GB will meet next week to expedite the provision of signage on the site.

3.1.2 Economic Growth/Regional Workforce Development Working Group (BEGWD)

Noted Action item 73 from the action item lists- for number of people employed on those projects. - needs to keep being progressed.

RESOLUTION: The GT endorsed Darren Whatley as a Chamber of Commerce representative to take up the business seat at the GT.

RESOLUTION: The GT endorsed the recommendation of the BEGWD Working Group to appoint both Darren Whatley and Vin Lang as co-chairs of the Working Group.

3.1.1 – Projects led by TFHC – Soana Vaihu

Resolution: The GT endorsed the proposal that the Working Group developed for the Child Wellbeing and safety partnership initiative encompass the crisis youth initiative, and meet as one coherent group addressing the concerns about youth.

4.6 Vote of thanks to Independent Chair and discussion of the future



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- Clarification for the role that would include the support aboriginal leadership

Resolution: The GT endorsed the proposal to extend the term of Mr Sean Gordon as an independent Chair of the BRD GT for the next 12 months. The proposal is subject to funds being available and the position is to be reviewed at the end of 12 months.

The TOR for the role of Independent Chair will include specific activities supporting the role of Aboriginal leadership organisations to unite and plan for the future structure, post the current BRD, and to support their leadership and participation in the GT.

Action item: For the funding of this to be discussed at a coming Admin Group meeting - once the BRC can provide the BBT with 22/23 Financial Statements and the BBT can develop an accurate 23/24 budget.

5.2 Next Meetings – 2024 schedule

7 March 2024 (at Elliott), 6 June 2024 in TC, 5 September, 2024 (at Ali Curung), 21 November, 2024, in TC.

Meeting concluded at 5.10pm.