

Barkly Regional Deal



Minutes Governance Table Meeting 23 Meeting Minutes

Barkly Regional Council Chambers Peko Road, Tennant Creek



Governance Table Meeting opened at 8.44 am Thursday 7 March 2024

Chair: Independent Chair, Mr Sean Gordon AM

Minutes: Stuart Clark and Deborah Hartman

Responses: 16 accepted, 3 apologies, 2 proxies

Governance Table Members in attendance:

Sean Gordon AM (Independent Chair); Deborah Hartman, (Backbone EO); Ebony Satchell (proxy for PB) & Tony Miles (Aboriginal Corporations Leadership Group (ACLG); Lachlan Wilkins (Northern Territory Government Chief Minister & Cabinet); Soana Vaihu (Territory Families, Housing and Communities); Dawn Swan, Ben Neade, Mervyn Franey & Graeme Calma (Barkly Aboriginal Alliance); Lisa Rauter (Commonwealth Government, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and Arts), Harry Abrahams (National Indigenous Australians Agency); Ian Bodill (Barkly Regional Council), Georgina Bracken and Claire Keen (NGO Sector). Darrin Whatley (Business Sector)

Online attendance:

Fiona Yule and Tim Candler (Commonwealth Government, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and Arts), Marnie Wettenhall & Jenny Joyce (Commonwealth Department of Social Services);

Online Observer:

Peter Holt, Official Manager Barkly Regional Council

Invited Guests (in person): Ross Jakamarra Williams and Barb Shaw, Co-chairs of the Community Safety and Well-being Partnership Group – invited to report on Item 3.1.4 Aboriginal Leadership Deep Collaboration Workshop and participate in Item 2.1 Discussion of emerging opportunities for BRD.

Support:

Lucy McGarry, Cyril Franey (Barkly Backbone Team and Barkly Aboriginal Alliance), Sarah de Saville & Stuart Clark (Commonwealth Government, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and Arts), Peter Burnheim (Northern Territory Chief Minister and Cabinet).

Agenda Items:

1.1 Formalities: Introduction, Apologies, Quorum

Apologies and Absences: Apologies: Byron Matthews, NIAA; Pat Brahim, ACLG; Gerard Coffee, JCAC, Business Sector; Joey Carter, NLC.

1.2 Welcome to Country spoken by Shalee James, Patta.

Acknowledgement from Sean Gordon AM, Independent Chair (IC)

1-minute silence for those lost.

Sean Gordon AM (IC) welcomed Ms Lisa Rauter for her first in person attendance as Commonwealth Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA)

Barkly Regional Deal

representative, and Mr Darrin Whatley for his first GT meeting as the Chamber of Commerce appointed Business Seat at the Table.

Mr Sean Gordon (IC) affirmed the Deal vision - a reminder of why we're here and the purpose of the BRD activities: *'Strong Barkly families and communities, together determining our future and thriving in both worlds'*. He expressed excitement about the possibilities of this moment of the Deal - 5 years in, 5 years left of investment, and the future phase which, if skillfully managed, will allow us to sustain our vision and purpose beyond the Deal.

1.3 Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting:

The minutes of Meeting 22 were accepted and approved for publication on the BRD website.

1.4 Action Items

Action Items from previous meetings were noted, with many items actioned in a timely manner in the last 6 months. It was also noted that several action items still open would be further discussed in later agenda items at this meeting.

1.5 Conflict of Interest Disclosures* None were raised

1.6 Correspondence tabled for noting

Two letters, prepared by the BBT and edited and approved by the Admin Group, have gone out from the GT: a. letter for support to Wilyajanta and b. a contract to Mr Sean Gordon for his Independent Chair role for the next 12 months, which includes support for strengthening local Aboriginal leadership.

No official correspondence has been received into the GT since the last GT meeting. It was requested that all Table Members encourage people to correspond officially with the BRD through the Backbone Team. The Independent Chair emphasised the importance of this, as a way of recording community views and concerns.

Action Item 95: The official email address and phone number for members of the public to contact the Governance Table through the Backbone Team will be prominently promoted on the updated BRD website and Communique from this meeting. Website: <https://barklyregionaldeal.com.au/> Ph: 08 89622746 E: info@barklybackbone.com.au

Item 2.1 Discussion of emerging opportunities for the BRD

The following is a brief summary of the discussion on the upcoming funding opportunities which will become available through new Government grant programs in the near future. The discussion was about how the Barkly could build on the opportunities created by the 28 initiatives of the BRD and ensure community priorities are at the forefront of all new government initiatives. As well as GT members, this discussion was attended by invited guests Mr Ross Jakamarra Williams and Ms Barb Shaw, as it was relevant to their report on the recent Aboriginal Leadership Deep Collaboration workshop attended by some community leaders. It also led into the discussion on the Review of Governance Structures of the BRD, which was suggested by the group attending the Deep Collaboration workshop and independently proposed by the Independent Chair Mr Sean Gordon.

Mr Sean Gordon (IC) opened this discussion, stating that we're at halfway point of the 10-year Deal. The 28 initiatives are locked in and progressing. At this point we need to reflect on government accountability to the table and whether we need to bring in other govt agencies, such as the Department of Education, Federal and NT housing Depts, and Health Depts. DSS are already at Table informally, but not as a voting member. We recognise they are a significant funder and the SPSP program has an important focus on systems change. One issue the GT is grappling with is how the Governance Table can ensure effective governance of project approval processes and hold the government departments accountable for project costs and time variations in the projects they lead.

Mr Sean Gordon (IC) then introduced Ms Lisa Rauter, First Assistant Secretary Partnerships and Projects Division of DITRDCA, who, after introducing herself and outlining her considerable experience in the field, led the discussion and invited other Government Partners at the table to identify upcoming Commonwealth funding opportunities which may be available to the Barkly Region.

Barkly Regional Deal

These are:

Infrastructure

- Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program (RPPP) - \$400m program for transformative projects that bring community together, applications are open to State, Territory and LGs, universities, NFPs. 2 streams - Stream 1: Precinct development and planning; Stream 2: Precinct delivery. Barkly is eligible to apply.
<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/territories-regions-cities/regional-australia/regional-and-community-programs/regional-precincts-and-partnerships-program>
- Middle Arm and Logistics Hubs – Katherine, TC and AS to transport critical minerals.
<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/territories-regions-cities/regional-australia/northern-australia-investment-and-projects>
- Remote Airstrip Upgrade program – for safety and accessibility. Further rounds of funding available.
<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure-transport-vehicles/aviation/regional-remote-aviation/remote-airstrip-upgrade>
- Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF) – opportunities
<https://www.finance.gov.au/government/specialist-investment-vehicles/northern-australia-infrastructure-facility>
<https://www.naif.gov.au/>

Employment: 200 Jobs Trial – 2000 Jobs

- Remote Jobs and Economic Development Program (Harry Abrahams, NIAA provided information) Govt has recently announced *New jobs and Economic Development* program to replace CDP. This program is currently going through trials and a co-design process until September. During a recent visit to TC, Min McCarthy stated she sees an opportunity for the NT for a significant component of this. The time is right now to inform the system on how you want this program to roll out. Currently there are trials of the Jobs programs in the Barkly, with some impressive projects emerging. There is direct C'wealth investment with expectation to employ people ongoing after training. Real opportunities in the next 6 – 8 weeks to put thought into this.
<https://www.niaa.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/employment/community-development-program-cdp/job-trials-testing-new-approaches-remote-employment>

Social, community and systems-change initiatives

- Entrenched Disadvantage program (Marnie Wettenhall, DSS provided information) Targeted Increased Disadvantage Package announced as working collectively with communities to address entrenched disadvantage. The program works closely with Treasury and ABS. Recognises Govt is uncoordinated at times. Aims to produce a framework to work under. Possible opportunity for Barkly/GT to engage about the framework.
<https://www.dss.gov.au/publications-articles-corporate-publications-budget-and-additional-estimates-statements/entrenched-disadvantage-package?HTML>
- *SPSP is being extended for 5 years to Barkly region and enhanced data to support decision making. A data dashboard is being designed with input from DSS funded community partnerships, including the Barkly. This is still being designed. SPSP is being extended for 5 years to Barkly region and enhanced data to support decision making. A data portal is being designed with input from DSS funded sites, including the Barkly. This is still being designed.*

Housing

Barkly Regional Deal

Housing Investment Package – Mr Lachlan Wilkins (DCMC) said this still being negotiated. Mr Sean Gordon (IC) says important for us to understand what this looks like. Mr Tony Miles (ACLG) interested in hearing more about this in terms of TC and Barkly region.

Action Item 96: Soana Vaihu (TFHC) and Harry Abrahams (NIAA) will bring further information about the Housing fund to the Admin Group and next Governance Table meeting to be circulated and acted upon as soon as details are known.

Action Item 97: The BBT will provide links to information about these funding opportunities on the BRD website.

Summary of general discussion on the importance of communities being able to tap into funding opportunities and the structures that would support a coordinated and equitable approach for the Barkly

Mr Merv Franey (BAA)– This housing announcement is definitely good news. Homelands have suffered for decades and are in state of disrepair. Looking at opportunities to work together. There is a perception of people there doing nothing, but they are vibrant and active communities. All are struggling to do it on their own. Homeland people must be included in discussions. Let's approach this future opportunity on the basis of systems-change and how stakeholders and communities can be integrated into decision-making from the very beginning.

Mr Tony Miles (ACLG) –ABS stats and disadvantage scale puts Barkly very high – previous policies caused a migration into town which has overloaded capacity. Little or no funding in bush but increased pressure on town infrastructure - housing has been impacted. It involved a concentrated policy effort to move people to town but it has backfired.

There was general discussion, acknowledgement from government partners of urgent community needs and priorities and consensus that governments need to respond to community priorities, not the other way around. Government schemes and initiatives need to come to the community structures and facilitate their engagement with appropriate scheme design, funding allocations and implementation strategies for new funding opportunities before the packages are finalised and funding allocated.

Mr Gordon (IC) stated that a community-led governance structure with a focus on community priorities across Tennant Creek and the whole Barkly is vital to the Barkly taking full advantage of the funding opportunities in the interests of Barkly families and communities.

The Chair thanked the government partners for coming to the table with this very useful information and thanked all participants for their lively interest and constructive participation on the ways forward for Barkly communities to take advantage of these opportunities.

Items 3.1.4 and 2.0 - Combined Discussion

Community well-being and safety partnership update (on Deep Collaboration Workshop) by Co-chairs of CS&WB Working Group Mr Ross Jakamarra Williams and Ms Barb Shaw (see attached paper *Wumpurani Dialogue, 28 Feb, 2024*).

Mr Sean Gordon (IC) invited the co-chairs of the CS&WB Working Group to enter the GT conversation and report on the Deep Collaboration Workshop organised by the newly formed working group. The group had invited representatives from all the Aboriginal organisations in Tennant Creek, as well as the Aboriginal Alliance to attend the workshop. It was facilitated by Collaboration for Impact, who were engaged through their ongoing Deep Collaboration work, supporting BRD partners to work closely and effectively together.

Ross Jakamarra Williams thanked the Independent Chair for the invitation and outlined his own involvement with the Deep Collaboration workshop and his long involvement over many years in community issues and organisations and the beginning of the BRD. He stated that all except 2 local Aboriginal organisations were present at the workshop.

He described how the movement of people from country and cattle stations to Tennant Creek has always involved housing needs and housing provision. Aboriginal people and organisations have always led on this issue.

Barkly Regional Deal

Mr Williams was part of Deal from the beginning. He got in touch with Gov and the media after incident that sparked community concern. He stated he has sat back the last 2 years, seeing friction and personal grievances in the Aboriginal organisations and within the BRD structures. He thought the Deep Collab WS was very productive and it was the first time he's seen each organisation voice their opinions. It was a good refreshing feeling. All about working as a collective group. They spoke about lack of collective leadership, people not being accountable, lack of respect for culture and protocols, shifting away from combined Aboriginal collective principles, silos and disconnections. Everyone got together and spoke as a collective group. The workshop was an inspiring start to a renewed collaboration between Aboriginal organisations.

Ms Barb Shaw stated that the workshop was attended by Aboriginal people in town and from the Alliance. It was really important that people felt comfortable. We created a safe environment where people could chat openly and respect each other and at the same time, there was robust discussion. The words that kept emerging were empowered collective leadership.

People felt the need for reflection about working together, there is a disconnect – organisations must work together.

The bulk of conversation was on the BRD. There is a need to get it right. People feel the BRD has lost its way. We must not forget it resulted from a very tragic incident. The group felt that there is a lack of balanced Aboriginal representation at the GT. It felt the BRD has shifted from the original intent of achieving social outcomes and is considered to have failed in this area. The Deal has to take into account Aboriginal voice, participation, and setting the agenda. An Aboriginal Leadership Group gives Govt a structure to negotiate with, not the other way around. There has to be a big picture strategy and balanced representation.

.The group stated they want to establish an Aboriginal Leadership group. This group would play a big part in dialogue with all Govt and agencies. This goes to conversations on funding agreements and how people access funding. There is pressure from changing govt policies and staff. These issues could be addressed through a review of the Deal.

TC Aboriginal organisations don't have secretariat support to convene and coordinate this conversation. The Barkly region as a whole needs to be represented. The good thing that came out of the workshop was the recognition that they need to take responsibility as well, not to be waiting on Govt. It was agreed that Aboriginal people themselves need a combined collective leadership and need to take an inclusive, non – judgmental approach. Decisions need to be taken in accordance with the cultural protocols of different places.

The decision arising from the one-day Deep Collaboration workshop called for review of the Deal and this was given a priority. Aboriginal people must have input into designing the TORs for a review and they need to be done quickly.

Mr Sean Gordon (IC) responded and agreed that the community's original intent of the BRD and the Government response was not well aligned. The bulk of initiatives are about infrastructure but can be leveraged to address social issues. There have been conversations on a reset for 12 months or so.

Mr Gordon's draft proposal (paper handed out at GT) is a draft for discussion. He is seeking endorsement to progress a review, to formalize a process to think about what needs to be done. There was agreement that no-one is seeking a shift on the majority of the initiatives, which are already in progress and cannot easily be redirected.

RESOLUTION PASSED ON ITEM 3.1.4

It was agreed, at the invitation of the guests who provided it, that the document from the Deep Collaboration Workshop will be shared as part of the minutes of the Governance Table.

The Discussion resumed after morning tea when the invited guests had completed their presentation and left.

At the Table there was general agreement that a reset had already begun and the calls for a review were consistent with this reset.

Ms Lisa Rauter (DITRDCA) stated – there may be consideration given to renegotiate some undelivered projects where warranted subject to community and stakeholder expectations to deliver agreed commitments.

Barkly Regional Deal

There was general agreement that as the Deal is now more able to leverage off current projects to more clearly address social issues and community concerns. Mr Gordon (IC) stated it is important that we incorporate other government agencies, especially DSS who are focusing on systems change.

Mr Wilkins (DCMC) emphasized that the focus on community leadership would require the review to be of the governance component, not the initiatives already underway.

The suggested TORs were read out. They emphasised accountability of both community and government. The aim was to shift the conversation from delivering projects to leadership and to bringing in other agencies responsible for services and funding.

Collaboration for Impact was proposed as independent consultant because they know the Deal. They have now conducted three Deep Collaboration workshops. The outputs from these workshops have shaped the reset of the Deal, of the operations of the Backbone Team, of the Governance Table Draft Strategic Plan for the next 5 years, as well as the focus on Aboriginal Leadership structures.

There is a need to eliminate perceived and real conflicts of interest from the review processes. Appropriate procurement processes for consultants will be followed, as usual in BRD initiatives.

There was general agreement that a review must be forward looking,

There was general agreement that the TORs will not be decided today. There was support for a small working committee (no more than 3 or 4, inclusive of Alliance and the Community Leadership Group from Deep Collaboration Workshop, and Aboriginal Corporations Leadership Group) to be convened to decide these and bring them back to the GT for endorsement. It was acknowledged that there is overlap between the current Aboriginal Corporations Leadership Group represented on the GT, and the working group members who attended the Deep Collaboration workshop. There are also some grey areas between the leadership roles of the co-chairs of the CS&WB Working Group and those representing the ACLG on the GT.

Mr Tony Miles (ACLG) stated that resetting the Deal from Business orientated infrastructure to taking care of social and community needs has to be focus. What difference are we making to the lives of people in TC and Communities? We need to focus on people.

There was general agreement that with 5 years left, the TORs need to stay focused on governance issues and not to exceed Deal parameters. Closing the Gap is extremely relevant here. We're setting up for the future. We're increasing focus on Aboriginal leadership and outcomes that can be seen/felt in community.

There was a reflection that a lot of work on the community vision for the BRD had already been done and that business and other sectors were also on board with that community vision.

The critical question of how the BRD structures can support an empowered and constructive Aboriginal leadership need to be resolved. It was agreed that a letter can't go to Minister Chisholm and others until the small group have defined the TORs. This is the first step that needs to occur.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED on Proposal 2.0

- 1. That the GT write to all three tiers of government, who are partners to the deal, requesting a governance review of the BRD, and seeking modest funding to conduct this review.**
- 2. That the Table endorses the outlined purpose and processes of the governance review, to be conveyed to the relevant partners.**
- 3. That a panel of 3-4 community members (including at least one member from recent Deep Collaboration Group) is formed to support the Independent Chair to finalise the TORS outlined below to be circulated to the GT for endorsement within 2 weeks of convening.**

Barkly Regional Deal

PURPOSE

The purpose of the governance review is to investigate ways to strengthen representation, governance structures, and accountability measures to ensure that we are meeting the needs of the Barkly region and the intent of the BRD.

BACKGROUND

The Barkly Regional Deal (BRD) is at the midway point of the 10-year commitment of all three levels of government to invest in the Barkly Region. During the past five years the Governance Table have focussed on ensuring that the BRD is delivering on the 28 initiatives.

In 2022 Mr Sean Gordon was appointed Independent Chair of the BRD Governance Table and during this time we have worked to ensure that the BRD use the opportunity provided by the 28 initiatives to move towards addressing entrenched social disadvantage. Due to the shift in focus, Mr Gordon formally recommends that the BRD Governance table undertake a governance review of representation, governance structures and accountability measures, to ensure that we are meeting the needs of the Barkly region.

PROCESSES and OUTCOMES

- The review could strengthen and enhance recent reset activities already proposed and supported by the Governance Table.
- The review could be facilitated by Independent Chair Mr. Sean Gordon AM and could be conducted by independent consultants Collaboration for Impact, through further Deep Collaboration work with the Aboriginal Leadership and other sectors.
- The review will be conducted over a 3-month period, starting in March 2024
- A report with recommendations for a reset of Governance structures of the BRD will be submitted to all BRD partners at the end of this 3-month period, through the Governance Table
- The GT will request additional funding to conduct the review from the Australian Government

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

These TORs are to be finalised by the 3-4 member Panel and Mr Gordon, for attaching to the letter requesting the governance review.

The aims of the Terms of Reference of the governance review of representation, governance, accountability structures and performance measurement of the BRD would be to:

- ensure the right voices are at the table to realise social outcomes from BRD projects;
- support and develop readiness to build accountability for a shared community agenda and decision-making processes;
- address ongoing community concerns;
- align governance structures and functions with local cultural protocols
- align governance structures and functions to recommendations from the recent Productivity Commission Report on ways to Close the Gap through Aboriginal leadership of government funding and projects effecting Aboriginal communities;
- align governance structures, functions and future activities with Systems Change frameworks and processes;
- align performance measurement and evaluation of the BRD activities to Closing the Gap measures;
- align performance measurement and evaluation of the project outputs of the BRD with community outcomes measures set by the communities;
- ensure local data sovereignty protocols are embedded in all data activity;

Barkly Regional Deal

- ensure the governance mechanisms are appropriate to drive timely decision-making and accountability for progression of delayed projects;
- ensure governance structures are appropriately holding delivery partners to account for effective project delivery and realisation of expected outcomes;

2.3 Update on Development of Strategic Plan

It was noted that the Draft Outline of the Strategic Plan (see paper tabled), which was an output of the November 2023 Deep Collaboration workshop, involving Governance Table members and other government and community leaders, reflected the reset towards community concerns and would be a useful document for the Governance Review to consider.

2.4 Reflection on working in the middle space using Principles Rubric and 2023 and 2024 survey data

Shaylee James, Chair of the Measuring Change Working Group and BBT MEL Coordinator Lucy McGarry led a process of reflection about the GT processes, using the Principles Rubric developed by the Measuring Change Working Group. The focus of the exercise was on the principle of 'working in the middle space'.

They also presented data from 2022/23 evaluation surveys filled in by GT members, Working Group Members and the Alliance, compared to 23/24 results from the same participant groups. The evidence demonstrates a positive trend in the respondents' perceptions that the BRD is making some progress towards systems change on some of the BRD ways of working. The number of respondents was smaller in 2024 than 2023. The survey is still open for GT members to respond.

3.1 Barkly Aboriginal Alliance Report – verbal report by Chair, Mr Merv Franey

Highlights:

- Alliance growing in strengths, numbers and representation of 4 main areas of the Barkly.
- Alliance recognises hard work and support from the BBT, as the Alliance establishes their own independent governance
- Alliance members building their reputation and capacities for leadership and strategic interventions and networking through:
 - Attending Systems Change Leadership training in Canberra where there were many productive interactions with Gov and non Gov agencies, on a human level rather than a bureaucratic, political level.
 - Strategic meetings with Government Ministers and Senators to advocate for the needs for improvements on homelands and other Barkly Communities, eg recent meetings with Senator McCarthy and Chisholm
 - Presenting on Aboriginal leadership of systems change at ChangeFest Mildura, on a panel led by leading Systems Change theorist and practitioner from Tamarack Institute in Canada.
 - Engaging with TC Aboriginal Leadership through Deep Collaboration workshops and designated agenda item on Alliance meetings before the GT meeting.

3.1.1 BBT Learning Report on Working Groups noted and taken as read. Not discussed due to time constraints.

3.1.2 Projects led by TFHC (Youth Justice Facility, Crisis Youth Support, Youth Services (GISSR Case Study), Visitor Park)

Paper taken as read and noted.

Youth Justice Facility: Site preparation for Youth Justice Facility is expected to take 15 weeks and commence within 4 weeks.

ACTION ITEM 98: GT to enquire whether a decision on cultural training materials and provider has been made by Patta. TFHC and BBT will coordinate these inquiries so that training can occur in a timely manner once workers arrive to start work.

Barkly Regional Deal

ACTION ITEM 99: ILUA conditions regarding cultural training for workers will be checked, communicated to contractors and adhered to by TFCH, in consultation with Patta.

TC Visitor Park: Ms Soana Vaihu is seeking advice on consultation regarding service delivery to operate in the facility. She requests a draft of program to come to next GT meeting.

Suggestions to discuss and consult with Aboriginal Hostels, Alliance Members and local organisations likely to direct families to the facility. Cultural considerations are important for families from surrounding areas, as well as cultural protocols for Warumungu people. Training opportunities should also be highlighted.

ACTION ITEM 100: Consultations on Visitor Park facilities and operations will continue to be conducted with individual community members, and ACLG and Alliance members through their regular meetings. TFCH and BBT to conduct consultations on Signage in Aboriginal languages, appropriate trees and operations Visitor Park asap.

In relation to the Crisis Youth Accommodation – this can be considered for rescoping by the GT based on the current need. The delay with this initiative is due to the scope changing and the identified facility not being viable. The funding available is only for operational costs. Consideration to be given to whether it can strengthen existing services. Next steps include the Department working with the Backbone Team to hold consultations with Barkly Youth Services Providers Network.

Juno facility – is different from Youth Justice facility in Deal. TFCH are using some rooms in the accommodation block of Juno. Around 6 young people will be housed and attend programs there with other school students. Juno education programs for students will continue into the future. This is not a detention centre or secure facility, it's low risk and short-term accommodation, staffed by TFCH until the Youth Justice Facility is built and the contract for operations of this facility is finalised.

ACTION ITEM 101: TFCH will prepare some communication materials outlining the differences between the Juno facility, The Youth Justice Facility and the Student Boarding Facility – explaining the purpose and client groups of the different facilities and how they interact with each other.

3.1.3 Economic Growth/Regional Workforce Working Group

Verbal Report For noting Presented by Darren Whatley Co-community Chair and Peter Burnheim

DCMC is the lead government agency and has convened a meeting of combined WG. So far,

- the Tors have been set up
- Community Co-chairs have been elected.
- A smaller executive/coordinating group have been meeting monthly to work through the 110 actions, categorised under two strategies and allocate work to lead agencies.
- A series of workshops and forums are planned to develop detailed plans for major areas of work.
- Barkly Futures Forum planned for Youth in May and Whole Business and Community in June.

3.1.5 Trauma Informed Care Project Group Verbal Update by Tony Miles Community Chair

For noting

Tony presented a slide illustrating that this project has two phases and components, a training component and a treatment component.

A report on the Training Project phase conducted by We-a-li has been received and the Project Group have given feedback to the authors, which was accounted for in the final report, which will be made available.

Barkly Regional Deal

The group now have to decide how to embed TIC into services across the Barkly. Of the two components, the treatment component is more complex, and there is difficulty in obtaining specialized support staff who can address complex trauma in the Barkly.

Both Anyinginyi and Bradaag have presented papers outlining how treatment could be delivered to their specific target groups and also include elements to support embedding TIC in other services across the Barkly.

There are a range of sources for funding for TIC work and it is important to take a collaborative approach and not to foster unnecessary competition.

RESOLUTION:

The GT would welcome a joint proposal from Anyinginyi and BRADAAG, through the TIC Project Group, for embedding a trauma informed care model across the Barkly.

3.1.6.1 BRC Ali Curung Youth Centre Update Presented by Ian Bodill, BRC CEO and Romeo Mutsago, BRC CFO

The Ali Curung Youth Centre Project is now a legal matter still being pursued by the Council with the contractor who was contracted to build it. There is some movement before the case goes to court and Ian hopes that the matter will eventually be resolved. Ali Curung community members have been made fully aware of the situation by the BRC. Funding has had to be returned and BRC will know by the May Budget if funding will still be available to continue with a new plan to build the centre. The estimated cost is between \$4.6 to \$4.8 million. There is some talk with the community of re-scoping plans for the building and site, once the legal issues are resolved. Mr Bodill is confident Council can deliver project and are doing all they can to retain funding. Local jobs will be a consideration in the rescope project.

RESOLUTION:

The GT reiterates that the Ali Curung Youth Centre is an identified community need that is still unmet. We support the BRC initiative to bring this project to fruition in a timely manner within budget, including local training and job opportunities.

ACTION ITEM 102: The table to write to BRC and Ali Curung LGA stating its position of support for the project completion.

3.1.6.2 BRC update on Local Community Projects Fund Presented by Mr Ian Bodill, BRC CEO and Mr Romeo Mutsago, BRC CFO

Mr Bodill and Mutsago presented some history and an overview of the financial situation of the Local Community Projects Fund income and expenditure. Others also contributed historical knowledge of the processes.

As part of the original Deal agreement signed with the three tiers of government, the BRC agreed to contribute \$3m towards the Deal, through the Local Community Projects Fund. The C'wealth and NT Governments agreed to contribute \$1.5m each, enabling a \$6m fund to be allocated to community projects approved by the GT.

There were 5 BRC projects completed in 21/22. Amounts were approved for projects but there were significant overspends which means council ended paying out far more. There are no records these overspends were approved. There were no records of variations. The projects were completed and amounts were fully paid. BRC requests the GT consider that \$2.2 million spent on these projects be counted as part of the \$3m contribution.

RESOLUTION PASSED: The GT agreed to postpone consideration of this matter until after BRC investigations / processes are complete and a complete financial picture is available.

3.1.7 Student Boarding Facility Update For Noting verbal report from Community Chair Georgina Bracken

- Working Group is very happy with design at 10%, Mural proposed for entry. Spoke to Barkly Regional Arts about a multi-artist entry. There is scope and ability to do this – like the IGA store.

Barkly Regional Deal

- Next presentation will be at 25% on 11 April. Thinking about how they can utilise local resources.
- The 50 % design stage will coincide with the next GT meeting.

3.1.8 Draft Governance Table Handbook (2021) Tabled as a paper but not discussed due to lack of time and possibility that it would be rolled into the Governance Review Process.

4.1 Executive Officer Report – written and verbal - For noting. (See Paper 4.1)

Highlight items

- Important to realise that one funding agreement for the BBT work expires in June this year. BBT roles have become more complex, working group numbers and projects have expanded and require timely actions and decisions as projects come on line. BBT funding has remained the same for the last 5 years, despite costs rising. Admin group have agreed to work together to resolve funding issues.
- Communicating the activities, successes, challenges and opportunities of the BRD is very important. BBT has been focusing on updating the BRD website and providing regular communiques and Facebook posts.

Action Item 103: The Backbone Team will work with a local Aboriginal photographer to commission professional headshots and action photos of the GT members, and to write a short profile of each member to be available on the BRD website.

4.3 Traffic Light Report on 28 initiatives including Aboriginal jobs created – Tabled for noting, not discussed due to lack of time.

4.4 Project Completion Summary and Learning Discussion, BBT MEL Coordinator - postponed due to lack of time.

5.1 Review of agreed actions and decisions including **communications and correspondence arising**

To be circulated with draft minutes. Not discussed

Suggested Communique items:

Funding opportunities coming to the Barkly

Call for a Governance Review of BRD

Youth Justice Facility site preparation about to commence

GT evaluates its progress in adhering to the agreed BRD principles

BRC works to resolve delays in delivery of Ali Curung Youth Centre

5.2 Next meeting:

Thursday 6 June 2024 (in Tennant Creek)

5.3. Meeting close Sean thanked everyone for the robust discussion and attention to important issues. Meeting closed 4.25pm