



MARLINJA COMMUNITY SOLAR ARRAY – A SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY PROJECT SEEDED BY THE BRD LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECT FUND

At the Governance Table (GT) meeting at Elliott community on 6 June, Mr Jeff Mcleod, Acting CEO of Barkly Regional Council, reported that over \$2m of grant funding has been allocated for community projects through the Local Community Projects Fund (LCPF) of the Barkly Regional Deal (BRD), since October 2021.

One of the great successes of this funding pool is the Marlinja Community solar micro-grid launched on 7 June. This important, innovative project provides a benefit to every household in the community, who will receive credits on their power meters every day, from the power produced from the community micro-grid. The project has used ground-breaking technology and approaches to solar power production that could be built upon or used in community solar power projects across the territory. It also contributes to reduced greenhouse gasses, by using something that Marlinja and all NT communities have in abundance – bright sunshine!

Congratulations to Marlinja community, Original Power and partners, for their innovation and perseverance. BRD is proud to have provided seed funding for this community-driven project.

Eighteen communities in the Barkly have benefited from the LCPF, with projects including airstrips, basketball courts, sporting changerooms, community planning, community solar lighting, tractors, buses and fences, being approved by the Grants Panel of the Governance Table.

March Communique

June 2024 Communique

Five years into the ten-year , the GT is focusing on improving its way of working and ensuring community voices and priorities are heard and progressed. The Backbone Team is strengthening engagement with the youth sector and the Barkly Alliance Aboriginal Corporation are bringing voices from across the region. In other news, a governance review of the BRD is underway and the Tennant Creek Visitor Park, Student Boarding and Youth Justice Facilities are progressing. We welcome all community views and respectful conversations. Please feel free to contact us. See details on the next page.



Not all projects have gone to plan, with some communities still waiting for tractors and fences. Governance Table members acknowledged the difficulties this has caused for those communities.

The LCPF will commence a new grant round within the next few months, using the NTG grant portal for applications. The Backbone Team will keep you posted about the starting date for the new grant round and how to access the new application and assessment forms and processes.



TERMS OR REFERENCE ENDORSED FOR GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF THE BARKLY REGIONAL DEAL

Mr Mervyn Franey and Mr Gordon Noonan, members of the Steering Committee of the Governance Review of the BRD, presented the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the review. The Committee, including Ms Karan Hayward and Mr Richard James, is supported by Mr Sean Gordon AM, Independent Chair of the GT. After providing amendments acceptable to the Committee, the GT endorsed the ToR and will write to the three tiers of Government seeking approval and funding to contract an independent consultant to conduct the review.



3000 NEW JOBS PROGRAM PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE BARKLY

Governance Table and community members heard from Ms Jess Guthrie and Mr Harry Abrahams from NIAA about a new \$707 million national initiative to create 3000 jobs in remote communities across Australia. The scheme, announced by Minister Burney (above) in Feb, follows on from the successful 200 jobs trial in the Barkly. Local Aboriginal organisations and businesses can create real jobs and enhance services through this scheme. For more info go to the NIAA website or call Frances Spehr in the Tennant Creek office on 08 79781915. The Economic Growth and Workforce Development Working Group will be holding a project pipeline workshop, to track local infrastructure and other projects. Pipeline planning is vital to ensure that local traditional owners, businesses, services and communities get economic and employment benefits for the Barkly. The BBT will keep you informed about details of this workshop via our Facebook posts. See out contact info below.

BRD TRAUMA INFORMED CARE INITIATIVE: TWO LOCAL ABORIGINAL CORPORATIONS FUNDED

The GT endorsed the recommendations of the Trauma-informed Care (TiC) Project Team, to fund three community-led proposals to deeply embed trauma-informed care practices in two local Aboriginal-controlled services and to collaborate to spread the learnings about embedding trauma-informed practices from these services through other service providers in the Barkly. Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation and Barkly Region Alcohol and Drug Abuse Advisory Group (BRADAAG) will be awarded contracts to undertake this important work. Remaining funds from the \$3m BRD TiC initiative will be allocated to support collaborative TIC work across the Barkly. The Project Team also committed to developing further funding and practice partnerships to continue collaborative TiC practices across the Barkly.



THE NEXT MEETING
The next Governance Table meeting is scheduled for Sept 5 2024